



STAND FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN. BE A LIB DEM COUNCILLOR IN THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION.

www.beacouncillor.org.uk



Acknowledgements

This guide has been produced by the Local Government Association (LGA) Liberal Democrat Group, Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and Erica Kemp in partnership with Liberal Democrat Groups from across the Liverpool City Region. In the course of writing this we have drawn on earlier work, and particularly on guidance produced by the LGA. This guide also incorporates elements of the 'Learning and development workbook for potential electoral candidates' produced by the LGA.

Cover images – top: **Liverpool rally**

Bottom: **Councillor Carl Cashman**

Could I be a Liberal Democrat councillor in the Liverpool City Region?

YES!

Welcome to our guide to becoming a councillor for Liberal Democrat members and supporters in the Liverpool City Region.

This has been produced by the Liberal Democrat Group at the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors in conjunction with Liverpool Liberal Democrats.

This guide contains information about how councils work, and in the case of the Liverpool City Region, sets out the history of local government in the region and its present context, the role of a councillor and most importantly, what being a Lib Dem councillor looks like.

Inside this guide, you will hear from Lib Dem councillors on their experiences of being councillors and why they stood for council.

The guide is a great starting point if you have ever looked at other councillors and thought 'I could do this'. There is also information about where to go to find out more.

In local government the Lib Dems are working hard for local people, standing up for our communities and making sure everyone knows the difference the Lib Dems can make.

As Lib Dem councillors we are proud to serve our communities and set high standards for ourselves. We are part of shaping the future of our communities, villages, towns and cities. We also are hugely important in supporting and upholding the principles of liberal democracy in action. Local government is undergoing huge changes and challenges. It is more important than ever that Lib Dems are there to remind everyone that local government is there for local people.

Representing local people and campaigning with them is what we do best. You may already be a campaigner, community activist, involved in your local church or mosque, or a local school governor. You might help deliver leaflets or organise events. If so, you already have a great basis for taking up public office and becoming a Lib Dem councillor. But ultimately, if you really care about your area, and want work to make it the best place it can be, becoming a Lib Dem councillor could be for you.

Setting the scene in the Liverpool City Region

Being part of local government in our City Region isn't just an exciting opportunity for the future, it's being part of a historical Lib Dem legacy that very few areas can boast. Many will tell you that modern political campaigning started in Liverpool when a young councillor called Trevor Jones invented our Focus leaflets, petitions and a whole raft of activities that we now call community politics. Other parties practice some of the techniques but none throw themselves into community activity as much as we do. The cynical might say that's how we get elected – there's no harm in being successful. But in reality we are putting into practice the policies we believe in. We have faith in the people and believe that they should be involved to the maximum in activities which affect them and their potential.

Up to 2010 we were a major force in local government in the City Region. We led the Liverpool City Council for 12 years. We headed shared administrations in St Helens and Sefton. In Wirral we have often been part of shared administrations. In Knowsley and Halton we had reasonably sized groups able to hold controlling groups to account.

That all changed with the coalition. In Liverpool we slumped to just two seats; in Wirral five, in Knowsley none, in Halton two and in St Helens three. Only in Sefton did we remain a strong party largely, and then wholly, based around our Lib Dem Parliamentary seat in Southport.

But the pendulum has swung again. 2016 saw us double our Liverpool Group from two to four. In Knowsley we came back from none to three councillors. In Sefton we took all council seats in Southport for the first time ever. In Halton, St Helens and Wirral we gained no seats but gained vote share ensuring that our current seats have become much safer and giving us the courage, optimism and resources to challenge for gains.

This means that we are already the second party of local government in the Liverpool City Region with 38 seats to the Conservative Party's 31 and the Green Party's five. But we are more than 200 seats behind Labour. It just means that there are lots of wards left for us to gain!

The next year we can do this is 2018 as there are no 'Metropolitan' council seats up in 2017, unless there are by-elections. All six boroughs have set targets for increasing their group size in very realistic and well thought through strategic plans.

This 'Be a Councillor' booklet is all part of that. In addition to this, we are also running in Liverpool a course of six Saturday mornings called 'Liverpool Future', introducing people who are committing to wards to the practicalities of getting and being elected. Our new councillors will be able to hit the ground running when they are elected in 2018. We hope to run this practical and focussed course in all boroughs during 2017.

What is a councillor, and what do they do?

Councillors are elected by communities to represent them and to run their local authority. Councillors represent wards which vary greatly in size across the City Region.

Councillors are expected to be active in the life of their local community and act as the voice of their constituents, raising any concerns with the local council on a range of matters related to the work of the council. From waste collection to street lights, housing to social services, councillors talk to people about everything and anything.

Liberal Democrat councillors represent the Party and its policies, and are an important part of their local party, feeding back to members about what is happening at the council. Councillors may also work with politicians at a regional, national and European level on issues of local importance which have national implications.

Councillors are elected for a four year term unless they are elected at a by-election, in which case they must stand again at the next normal election for the seat. They are often referred to as 'members' of the council.

The council is controlled by either the political party which has a majority of councillors or, if no one party has a

majority, there may be a coalition of parties or a minority administration.

The councillor's role will vary depending on whether the Lib Dems are in control or in opposition, but generally speaking will include some or all of the following broad responsibilities:

- dealing with individual pieces of casework for local residents and helping them resolve issues
- leading or supporting local campaigns on behalf of the local communities
- serving on council committees which look at decisions being made or have specific legal or 'regulatory' duties such as planning and licensing
- if Lib Dems run the council, potentially making decisions which decide how local services are delivered
- acting as community leaders and helping local people get involved in the decisions made by the council.

Liberal Democrat councillors, even when we control the council, have a different philosophy to those of other parties. It is not the job of a Lib Dem to represent the town hall in the community but to represent the community in the town hall.

Councillor Mirna Juarez

Allerton Hunts Cross Ward, Liverpool City Council

I was a city councillor from 1999 to 2005, representing an inner city ward, until I stood down to start a family. I returned to campaigning in 2012 and was elected at the fifth attempt in 2016 in the Allerton and Hunts Cross ward, where I live. All three seats had been lost to Labour and it has been a long, hard slog to turn the tide. We did it by focusing on the issues that affected quality of life in the neighbourhood, regularly keeping people informed and updated.



I was doing the right thing. People soon started to thank me for our Focus leaflets and their accurate reporting of local issues.

So what made me want to return to politics when our prospects seemed so dire? I do like to keep up with the news and I could not believe how my home city was being run. My area had seen so many services disappear in a short space of time. One issue which incensed me was the potential loss of my daughter's school playing field. I set about highlighting this through our publications and alerting other parents. None of the Labour ward councillors did anything. Thanks to our campaign, the council agreed not to sell the field for housing.

It began to dawn on people that the parks and green spaces in our area were under threat from Labour and its friends in the property development industry. I set up campaigns to save our green heritage – one of the Facebook groups I started now has 1,350 members. I, and fellow campaigners, set up a protest camp on a site where Labour had allowed building on land gifted to the people for recreational use by a First World War hero.

My aim is to do my utmost so that Liverpool is an enjoyable place to live and work. Being a Lib Dem councillor gives me the chance to do that.

Action point: Go online and explore your council's website. Find out what services they provide and how many wards and councillors there are.

MPs, Assembly Member, MEPs, and town and parish councillors, Lib Dem councillors are also important in making sure there is a good reputation for the Lib Dems in the area.

Here are some things to think about before deciding to stand for election.

What's the time commitment?

Think about how you would balance the responsibilities of being a councillor alongside family, friends and employment.

Talk to the people around you before you stand, their support will be really important. If you have Lib Dem councillors or former councillors in your area, have a chat with them about what is involved.

If you also work, talk to your employer. You are entitled to time off for being a councillor and many employers see the benefit of an employee gaining such great experience outside the workplace.

If you have caring responsibilities, think about how to manage those. Many people looking after children or dependent adults make excellent local councillors as they have direct personal knowledge of the services that affect people just like them.

Can I afford to do it?

Most councillors receive an 'allowance' for their duties which is taxable. Being a councillor is a job and the allowance is to ensure that if elected you are not left out of pocket. If you are on benefits these allowances can affect your entitlement, so get advice before agreeing to stand.

There is also a childcare and dependents' carers' allowance for attendance at meetings payable on production of receipts, up to an agreed maximum cost per hour.

Action point: Make a list of all the things you currently do and think about how you could manage your activities and commitments. Talk to people with experience of being a councillor and who have similar time commitments to you.

The council also provides a special responsibility allowance to those who undertake additional duties such as the leader of the council, portfolio holders, scrutiny chairs and opposition leaders.

Most Lib Dem groups also agree to give part of their allowances to their local party to help get more Lib

Dems elected and to provide Focus and other materials needed to be a good councillor.

What training do I need?

You don't have to be highly educated or have a profession. Skills gained through work, education, bringing up a family, caring for a sick or disabled relative, volunteering or being active in faith or community groups are really valuable. In addition, the Liberal Democrats and its councillors' association (ALDC) offers training for people thinking of standing for election, as well as for candidates, and all councils provide training for both new and experienced councillors.

Although you don't need any particular training to stand for election, think about what skills and attributes you do have and how they might help.

For instance, councillors are expected to be available to enable constituents to come to them with problems. This means that councillors need to have good listening skills, the ability to represent someone, to keep confidences, and to resolve conflict.

Action Point: Find out more about the allowances scheme run by your local council, this can be found on their web site and think about your own financial situation.

How can I find out more?

There is more information below in the section called 'Once you're elected', as well as online on the ALDC website. The Local Government Association (LGA) has also produced a workbook to help you to go through some of the things you need to consider.

Action Point: Make a list of the skills and experience you think you have. Ask friends and relatives what they think. Be honest, but don't underplay yourself – most people have a much wider range of skills than they think. Consider how these skills would make you a great councillor.

Getting selected as a candidate

As a democratic party it is important that we have a fair, open and transparent process for choosing the people who stand for us in elections. The procedure is not designed to be complicated or onerous, but is intended to ensure we get the best candidates and that everyone who put themselves forward is given an equal opportunity of being selected.

Even if you are in an area where council candidates often get selected unopposed or where your existing councillors are hoping to re-stand, you still need a fair selection process to make sure that others have the opportunity of standing and to put you in good stead for when selections become more competitive.

There is a lot of freedom in how candidate selections can be organised, however, there are a few principles that are important:

- where there is an election for a candidate, this must be done through a secret ballot using the Single Transferable Vote system
- no one should be automatically reselected, including sitting councillors
- in England, only those people who are members at the time where the position is advertised can vote in the selection
- all candidates must have been approved as a candidate within four years before they can put their name forward for selection.

The initial stage is for local parties to advertise the wards in which they are selecting candidates to all of the party membership within the council area.

Potential candidates will be asked to submit a simple application form or slip or send an expression of interest through an email to the Returning Officer.

Action point: Find out about elections in your area and contact your local Lib Dem team. Ask about how elections are run locally and how you might get involved.

As a campaigning party we should encourage potential candidates to speak to members if they want to be selected.

All applicants should be given a list of the members eligible to vote, (which should be returned after the selection), with encouragement to get in touch with them.

The Returning Officer may also wish to allow each candidate to produce their own canvass leaflet.

The Returning Officer should also write to all of the eligible voters explaining that a selection is underway, that they may be contacted by candidates and including a one-side of A4 artwork from each candidate. They should also outline details of a hustings meeting when members can come along and listen to speeches from candidates and ask questions.

Most selections allow members to have a postal ballot if they cannot attend the hustings meeting, but usually these are only available on request to the Returning Officer. In most cases, the votes are counted at the end of the hustings meeting, but in some places they run a full postal ballot. This is for each borough to decide.

Action point: If you're not used to making speeches find someone who can help you to practice.

Think, too, about the kind of questions you might be asked; what are the important issues in the area, and what kind of challenges is the council facing? You don't need to know all the answers, but you should be able to demonstrate that you understand the question, and that you have an opinion on key issues.

Getting elected as a councillor

Unless you are a candidate in a by-election, the election will most likely happen on the first Thursday in May.

Between your selection and Election Day you will be expected to help lead Lib Dem campaigning in your ward, and, in particular, to talk to voters and listen to their concerns.

This can be done on the doorstep and/or by phone, and there are various kinds of events you can hold as well as leaflets and letters you can distribute.

You will have an agent (and/or campaign manager), and that person will be responsible for organising the detail of the campaign. As polling day approaches things will get busier, and more will be expected of you, so remember to be proactive in making sure that you still have time for family and work.

If you are elected you will be expected to start immediately, so make sure in advance that people such as your family and employers know this.

Councillor Sue Maguire

Leader, Sefton Liberal Democrats

There is never one direct route into politics, especially not local politics, and in my case my political life started as a result of a kerbstone. Every day on the way to my local park my two year son used to fall off his tricycle at exactly the same point because a developer who had built a new very swish block of apartments had not bothered to install a dropped kerb on the driveway.



Something so simple got me asking questions – was it a legal requirement to have a dropped kerb, how many other people fell over here, who in the council signed off that the job was done and so it went on. I wanted to know how decisions were made and more importantly who made them. I started to go to local community meetings quizzing councillors and council officers and before very long I thought I can do that.

As a result I joined the Liberal Democrats, as the party that I felt reflected most closely my own pro-European views and ambitions for an open and tolerant society with equal opportunity for all, and within a week they had me delivering leaflets.

Since joining the Party, I have been elected a councillor in ward that was a former Tory strong hold and have been re-elected twice, am now the Group Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Sefton Council, was the election agent for the 'Stronger In' campaign for Sefton (which returned a vote for Remain) and was John Pugh MP's election agent at both the 2005 and 2015 General Elections.

But it's important to recognise that being a councillor isn't just about politics – it gives you the opportunity to become a 'community champion'. In my case I have co-founded 'Rubbish Friends', a group of volunteers who regularly litter pick grot spots across Southport and have been instrumental in the campaign to make Southport a 'dementia friendly town'.

That kerbstone has a lot to answer for!

Costs, legal issues and probity

The main cost of getting elected is the cost of the campaign itself. Items such as leaflets, canvass cards and posters. Local parties should have a fundraising plan to cover the cost of the campaign.

Candidates do not receive expenses or payments, but once elected councillors normally do receive allowances.

There are some legal constraints on who can and can't be a local councillor, for example you have to live or work in the council area where you want to stand. There are other reasons such as bankruptcy which prevent an individual from standing and most local authorities publish the reasons why a person couldn't stand in the election section on their websites.

Elected representatives at every level are required to complete a Register of Interests which declares your financial and property interests and membership of any organisation that may influence you – such as a political party. The main thing to remember is, if in doubt, declare it and take advice from the chief legal officer if you are elected.

Every council also has a 'Members' Code of Conduct' which sets out rules for how its councillors are expected to conduct themselves in office such as the need to declare any pecuniary interests at a meeting before items are discussed. Following election, all newly-elected councillors sign a written undertaking to abide by the Code of Conduct. Council officers provide advice on all of these matters to councillors.

Liberal Democrat Groups also have Standing Orders to ensure that group business is conducted fairly and professionally. Make sure you are given a copy of the Standing Orders during your approval and selection process. If you are elected they will be your Standing Orders too.

Action point: Check what the legal requirements for being a councillor are and that you meet them.

Being a Liberal Democrat councillor

If you are elected you will take up office immediately, and although it may seem a little intimidating at first there will be training and support to help you settle in. The council will run an induction for new councillors, and, in terms of the work in the ward, you will find that much of it will follow on from the work you were doing before the election as a local campaigner. Liberal Democrat campaigners believe that councillors, and indeed the whole structure of local government, should engage with people and work with them rather than simply take decisions on their behalf.

Lib Dem councillors are expected to keep their residents up-to-date with what they have been up to. With regular newsletters in many places called Focus, emails and Facebook postings. They may also hold advice surgeries for constituents, attend regular Liberal Democrat Group meetings and play a full part in the life of the Party locally in their area. Lib Dem campaigners and councillors will often be the people leading the charge on issues of great importance to a local community.

A significant part of all these responsibilities is the work that councillors do at a neighbourhood level, representing the people of

their electoral ward or area. There is good evidence that councillors who develop and nurture a good reputation in their ward earn the respect of the electorate, who in turn repay them at the ballot box.

In itself, this is a compelling reason for taking the role of the ward councillor seriously. But the need to be effective as a ward councillor is about much more than this. Representing people in your area, understanding the issues and concerns they face and being equipped with the skills, confidence and ability to take action and make a difference is the most important task that any councillor undertakes. Significantly, it is also often the role that local people value most.

Lib Dem campaigners and councillors can act as the leaders and organisers for real change. As a result we may win council seats but the real victories will be in the community groups built and the control taken by people over the decisions which effect their own lives.

There are a number of key roles that councillors are involved in:

- serving the community
- representing the community
- representing the Lib Dems.

Serving the community

Providing public services is the main function of the council. Local councils provide around 800 different services, from highways and adult social services to education and refuse collection. Councillors have a key role as:

- policy-makers
- decision takers
- ‘scrutineers’ of the effectiveness of the council in delivering services.

You need to be the voice of your community at the town hall, representing its wishes and a link between your community and the council. The surest way of finding out what really matters to local residents is by asking them – whether on the door or on the telephone. Use time in queues, coffee shops, the launderette, on the bus, the hairdressers to listen to what people are talking about.

Conversations are vital to getting more information, beyond voting intention and is vital to maximising your vote at election time.

Representing the community

Councillors represent all of the people within your communities (including those who did not vote for them).

The task of representing a group of several thousand local people can be complex. The way that councillors carry out their ward duties can vary enormously, but as a Lib Dem councillor it is expected you will be very involved in every aspect of your community – from attending functions to supporting local events and regularly being in contact with residents through a variety of mediums.

You should:

- **understand** the ward – the key issues facing local people, by talking directly with voters
- **represent local voices** – by being a channel of communication between your local community and the council and ensure you are listening and representing the views of those you represent
- **manage casework** – listen to and respond to requests from individuals and groups in the community, resolving problems
- **represent** the Liberal Democrats

Understanding the ward

If you are a new councillor, it is essential that you get to know the area you represent. You need to know and understand your ward. What are the issues that concern people most? What issues are coming down the pipeline? A great place to start is with local community groups

Councillor Carl Cashman

Prescot North Ward, Knowsley Council

Being a councillor and representing your local community is one of the most enriching, enlightening and exciting experiences. I have the privilege of representing my home town of Prescot, a place steeped in history and full of great people that I get to know better as I progress in my role.

Knocking on doors and speaking at meetings may seem a daunting task to begin with, but if you are willing to learn and have a great political party to support you in your role, you'll love it. The Liberal Democrats are a family and I have always been supported by my colleagues, finding a wealth of knowledge and that they are always willing to help and give advice.

Having grown up on a council estate, I know what it's like to live in a place devoid of much hope. I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by people who believed in and supported me, and it's an experience that inspired my mission to improve the lives of others. It's why I entered public service and, since I first became a borough councillor last year, it's been a privilege being able to help people and make a difference to my community.

If you have a passion for your local area and are unsure about whether or not you should stand to make a difference, speak with a Lib Dem colleague and listen to the amazing stories about touching people's lives. Sometimes you might help a resident in what feels like the smallest way possible, but to them you've given your time and effort, changing their life in a small but significant way. It's not all potholes and pavements! You can make a real difference with local politics.



and 'community players'. You don't need to attend every meeting of every community group, but you do need to know they are happening and have good links with the key people. Good links with local vicars or religious leaders, the police community support officer, the corner shopkeeper or the local branch of the

Citizens Advice are great contacts.

Action point: Look at the internet and search for groups using key local area names. You'll probably discover a multitude of groups you were unaware of – and were unaware of you. Set yourself a challenge to meet up with one contact and group every month.

Issues will come up in your ward that require campaigning. A good local campaign is a brilliant way to cement the relationship between you and local people. You don't have to run the campaign, we're much more interested in 'empowering' other people to campaign themselves, but you will need to be involved, and perhaps help get things going.

Sometimes issues are difficult. If we run the council it may be that we are the 'baddies' that people want to campaign against. There are still ways you can stand up for your ward and you need to discuss how best to do this with your Lib Dem colleagues.

Sometimes an issue divides a community and there is no 'winning answer' – you need to stick to your Lib Dem good senses – most people who disagree with you will appreciate you standing up for the area.

Representing local voices

The task of representing a diverse and mobile mix of communities, groups and individuals can be tricky. While representing individual voters, councillors often try to keep in touch with as wide a range of people in the ward as possible. This will involve going to meetings and events, meeting people on a one-to-one basis, and listening to different views about what is needed or what should be happening. Your role as a representative includes lobbying to get a fair share of investment and service improvements in your area, dealing with casework and getting things 'sorted', and championing your area at the council.

Many authorities have an area or neighbourhood board structure bringing together councillors from a local area. Lib Dem have long been advocates of more local decision making and it is important we make the local structures work.

Because councillors are often one of the main link points between local people and the council, you will also need to be able to provide

information as clearly as possible to help them to understand local government services and processes.

This becomes easier once you are a councillor and understand them better yourself.

The biggest challenge for ward members is often in getting the council or an outside body to take local views into account when making decisions. There are various ways of doing this, but the first requirement is to understand what those views are yourself.

We as Lib Dems pride ourselves on asking voters what they think is important in their area, getting their feedback on local issues, reporting back to them what we have been up to and sharing information

People are much more inclined to listen and pay attention if they feel that the person speaking to them knows what they are talking about, is committed to getting the best outcome, and has credibility as an elected representative.

Managing casework

Some councillors find casework the best part of their role – the opportunity to sort out problems for people who find the council ‘an impossible nightmare’.

Customer service studies always show that it is the speed and style of the initial response that is remembered by the resident.

Respond quickly to all enquiries – email makes this very easy nowadays.

You need to set up a system for managing your casework that works for you. A book, a system using your email, a spreadsheet. Bits of paper and your memory will not work. All ALDC members get access to the online CONNECT Casework module for free (£3 a month for others), an online casework management tool that will allow you to keep track of all the casework that you do in your ward.

Action point: Speak to current councillors about their casework, the issues and problems as well as how they handle an issue.

However, make sure you do not raise false expectations about what you can achieve. Help individuals achieve things themselves. Remember we are here to empower not act as an alternative social worker or benefits advisor.

It is a good idea to build up a network of good contacts to help you solve casework. Good relations with a small number of officers will work wonders – always say thank you to officers when something is done.

Representing the Liberal Democrats

You are also importantly a representative of the Party. We want our local community and our local council to be a more liberal and democratic place. If we are not any different from the Labour or Conservative councillors who went before us, then there was no point getting elected. It's our real chance to put Lib Dem policies into practice. We can use scrutiny, questions, Focus and the media to hold the ruling group to account. We can use council motions, proposals, amendments and campaigns and lobbying to put our ideas across.

You are the face of the Lib Dems locally. Stand up for what we believe in, stand by your colleagues. For the best solutions for local residents you will also have to work with others, identifying a common agenda to address the needs of the community but these still need to be in line with the Party.

Councillor Mike Haw

Eccleston Ward, St Helens Council and Eccleston Parish Council

Deciding to stand to become a local councillor was, easily the best decision of my life. To be able to represent the community in which you live and have grown up is absolutely brilliant; and is both enjoyable and rewarding.

Since being elected in 2011, I have campaigned on a number of issues, from opposing the closure of our local pharmacy, to opposing cuts to our local bus services. As well as front line campaigning, as a local councillor you also find yourself in some rather unique situations.

The best being the time when I was contacted by a local resident who had a wild rooster running around on her property. I remember saying that I would go around and help, and then I put the phone down, and thought, how am I going to catch a wild rooster. Michael, what have you got yourself into now... Anyways, an hour later, after running around somebody's garden with a washing basket and a fly net, we eventually caught the rooster. It turned out that the rooster was extremely rare, and emanated from Germany. How he found himself in Eccleston that day, I will never know. But he ended up on a local farm, where he now lives.

Every day is a different challenge, every day brings something interesting and I would recommend to anybody that if they are thinking of standing to become a local councillor that they do so. They will never look back.



Useful organisations and websites

Local Government Association Liberal Democrat Group

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

020 7664 3235

www.local.gov.uk/web/lga-libdem-group

Your council's website

Liberal Democrats

www.libdems.org.uk

Local Government Association (LGA)

An invaluable source of help and advice for all those in local government.

www.local.gov.uk

The Electoral Commission

Independent elections watchdog and regulator of party and election finance.

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors (ALDC)

www.aldc.org

Taking things further

The 'Be a Councillor' and 'Liverpool Futures' programmes are run on behalf of Lib Dems in the Liverpool City Region by Erica Kemp CBE. Erica served as a Lib Dem councillor for 23 years and was the Lord Mayor of Liverpool in 2014/15. She also worked for the Leadership Centre for Local Government and the Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA). She can be contacted at ericakemp@me.com or 07595 036094.

The Liberal Democrat Group leaders of the Liverpool City Region

Their contact details are available from their council websites:

Liverpool: Councillor Richard Kemp CBE

Knowsley: Councillor Carl Cashman

Sefton: Councillor Sue Maguire

St Helens: Councillor Theresa Simms

Wirral: Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Halton: Councillor Christopher Rowe



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