

# Swansea -- a place to be proud of!

**The Welsh Liberal Democrat manifesto for Swansea. May 2008.**

In 2004 Swansea voted for change and elected a Liberal Democrat led council. In that year we made promises to the electorate about what we would deliver and in 2008 we are proud of our record of keeping these promises. However, we still need to do a lot to put right the many years of Labour neglect in Swansea. In these elections we are asking you to place your trust in us for a second time. Just as in 2004, we are going to make clear commitments that we believe will continue the transformation of Swansea into a major European city.

Our vision is for a cleaner, greener, safer city that provides value for money services to its citizens. It means a better environment for us all to live, work and play in. It means a better education for our children and young people provided in fit for purpose buildings. It means moving away from the neglect of the past, and making Swansea and place we can be proud of.

## Value for money

- Since 2004, your council tax bills have gone up by about the same as inflation. This year's rise is only 3.5% -- five percent less than the average rise under the last Labour administration. We have achieved this by cutting waste, cutting bureaucracy, and running an efficient, cost-effective council that has made providing services to people a priority.
- We will maintain this record of financial prudence when you re-elect us on May 1st 2008.

## Safer, friendlier streets for Swansea

- we will extend the use of low speed limits around schools and residential areas, and we will expand the Safer Routes to Communities scheme. Our aim is to make streets safer people to walk in.
- We will develop mobile facilities for young people which will go to the places where young people actually meet. This will allow Council specialists to respond quickly to youth annoyance problems, to work directly with young people where they congregate, and to respond flexibly to new demands as they arise.
- We will continue to crack down on illegal alcohol sales to young people -- tackling the problem of under age drinking at its source.

## Life in the City Centre

- We will continue to encourage the development of flats and housing in the City Centre, and support City Centre retail and leisure development suitable for a 21st century city.
- We will provide better access to the city for disabled people, for cyclists, and for pedestrians.
- We will organise more city centre events, including a St. David's Day festival.
- We will co-operate with the Assembly Government and the European Union to establish Swansea as the regional capital of South West Wales, and make Swansea the powerhouse of regional development.
- We will work with other towns in the region to develop a modern regional transport infrastructure

## **Cleaning Swansea up**

- We will expand our efficient hit team approach to clearing litter, and give local people the power to target litter black spots for the teams to work on.
- We will extend the City Centre Ranger scheme, ensuring that people can talk to the Council not just in County Hall, but also in streets where they live and work.
- We will work with retail parks across the County to ensure that they take responsibility for litter both inside and around shopping areas.
- We will deal with rubbish and fly tipping on public **and** private land, and we will energetically chase up and prosecute those responsible.
- We will make it easy to people to inform the council of litter problems and get mess cleaned up quickly

## **Transport for a Region on the Move**

- We will continue to develop innovative solutions to Swansea's transport problems.
- We will work with the Welsh Assembly Government to extend the Park-and-Ride system, by introducing more sites, and keeping them open for longer.
- We will deliver on our promise to build a new bus station, in keeping with the new city centre -- despite the delays caused by the Assembly Government decision-making processes.
- We will develop a network of night buses -- to ensure that enjoying Swansea at night is not dependent on private transport.

## **21st century schools for 21st century children**

- We will expand the Safer Routes to School scheme -- making our streets safe for children is a Liberal Democrat priority. The scheme will encourage parents to let children walk or cycle to school, reducing traffic congestion at peak times, and reducing pollution near schools.
- We will respond to rising demand for more Welsh medium education provision.
- We will invest in new, energy efficient schools wherever the old and out of date buildings we inherited from Labour cannot be repaired and made fit for purpose economically.
- We will expand our schemes for using quality, local produce for school meals.

## **Swansea, a Green City by the Sea**

- We will reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill by providing more kerbside recycling across the city.
- We will develop more cycle routes, and secure cycle parks -- so that there are safe and convenient alternatives to driving a car into the city.
- We will continue to review energy use in council buildings, and develop a timed strategy for a carbon neutral council. Our aim is to make the city carbon neutral by 2020.
- We will work with housing developers to ensure that affordable, energy efficient homes are built across the County.
- We will work with Swansea's retail outlets to reduce plastic waste and packaging -- creating a cleaner, litter free environment for the residents of Swansea.

**Liberal Democrats -- for a Swansea that is  
safer, greener and great value.**