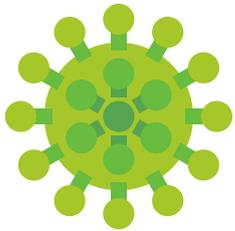


## MAKE NORMAL BETTER

This year's local elections will be unusual. They will include the City Council elections postponed from last year as well as the County Council elections. And election campaigning has been limited by government restrictions – yet another aspect of our lives feeling the impact of the pandemic. But democracy is more important than ever...

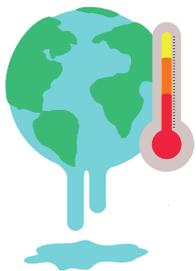
### Health, inequality and climate

#### CONNECTED CRISES...



The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted our vulnerability. While the elderly and those with underlying health issues have been worst affected, it is also clear that the virus has exploited the deep-rooted inequalities in our society.

The poorest, those from ethnic minorities and people with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.



Equally, the climate and ecological emergency shows the precarious state of our environment. The impact of this crisis too is unequal, with the most disadvantaged again, being the most vulnerable to climate and ecological breakdown.

The strong link between the state of our environment and the ability of viruses to unleash themselves on us has also become clear. Our health is intrinsically linked to the health of the environment.

#### ... NEED CONNECTED SOLUTIONS



As we emerge from Covid-19 during 2021 uncertainty will remain, but creating an economy and a society that tackles both inequality and environmental damage is vital.

During the pandemic we have seen communities provide extraordinary help for one another. We truly valued our essential workers - in health, social care, education, our shops and of course, our local councils.

The lockdowns have also given a glimpse of how our neighbourhoods could be better, with cleaner air, safer streets for walking and cycling and the sound of bird song. And the carbon emissions that are causing instability to our climate also dropped by a record amount in 2020.

With the mass roll out of the vaccination programme, there is hope - and the expectation that in 2021 life will 'return to normal.' This offers a chance to make normal better – developing connected solutions that create a more just society, a cleaner environment and a fairer economy in Exeter and Devon.

# #VOTEGREEN

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# GREEN COUNCILLORS ARE COMMITTED TO SOLUTIONS THAT CHALLENGE AND CHANGE THE SYSTEM FOR A FAIR AND GREEN RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Green councillors across the UK work hard, all year round, not just at election times. They put the needs of the communities they serve, and the environment, first.**

Unlike Labour and the Conservatives, who operate a 'whipping' system, Green councillors are beholden to no-one apart from the neighbourhoods they serve. They are therefore able to work more closely with residents and to tackle the challenges local communities face.

Politics is at its best when there are different voices in the room. Green councillors at all levels of government provide robust challenge, ensuring alternatives are explored, and raising the quality of debate and decision-making.

And, Green councillors have proven they can work cooperatively with councillors from other parties at both City and County Council levels.

Electing one more Labour or Conservative councillor this May won't make a difference.

**On May 6th you have the chance to send Green councillors to both City and County Councils. To elect Exeter councillors who will bring fresh thinking and will genuinely work with our communities to make lives, livelihoods and the environment better.**

## ELECTED GREEN COUNCILLORS WILL PURSUE THESE PRIORITIES

- Real action to ensure Exeter meets its pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030 - including a city-wide carbon reduction budget to show progress, engagement with communities on the steps we will all need to take and the creation of a locally owned fund to provide the investment needed to tackle the Climate Emergency.
- Give communities a better say in how we plan the future development of Exeter. A new local plan that protects nature, boosts biodiversity and creates low carbon communities.
- Ensure decent new zero carbon housing with low running costs that is truly affordable to rent. We'll challenge Labour's plans to profit from a company renting all its homes at market rates.
- Support the creation of local jobs which contribute to the recovery from COVID and help the city meet its climate goals - especially those in the social enterprise and small business sectors.
- A permanent modern market in the city centre - a focus for supporting new and small businesses and promoting local affordable food.
- Ensure low carbon and active travel options - especially walking, cycling and public transport - are safe, convenient and affordable and so clean up the city's air. Make Exeter 'a 20mph city'.
- Resist huge public spending cuts - we'll stand up for the local services that people and nature rely on.
- Push Labour to keep their promise on the stalled new kerbside food waste collection. Food waste makes up almost half of Exeter's incinerated waste and Exeter has a dismal 26% recycling rate, the lowest in Devon.
- Open, transparent and democratically run councils where local people have a say on issues that affect them - and where robust scrutiny and holding ruling parties to account is possible.



[www.exetergreenparty.org.uk](http://www.exetergreenparty.org.uk)



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