

Wirral Liberal Democrats Vision for Wirral 2023

Wirral Liberal Democrats believe that empowering individuals builds stronger communities. Our aim is to make Wirral Council efficient, responsive and compassionate, creating an environment that enables vibrant communities to flourish.

Liberal Democrat councillors scrutinise the work of the Council to ensure we get the best value for every pound available. The government has given Wirral an increase in grant below the level of inflation, despite increased demand for services.

We want a stable and fairer funding system for Wirral that enables longer-term planning rather than relying on unpredictable annual announcements from government about the money available.

Liberal Democrats want an end to the wasteful system of competitive bidding for pots of government funding.

Underlying everything we do will be careful consideration of the environmental impact of all decisions to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and make our local contribution to creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable planet.

For this year, our 8 priorities for Heswall are to:

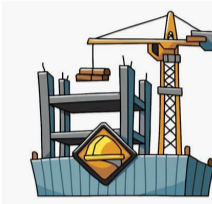
Repair our crumbling roads

Put extra cash into repairing our deteriorating roads, as the Government's 'pothole' funding is not keeping pace with the need.



Use regeneration grants to build a better Wirral

Ensuring that grants available to the Council for regeneration are spent with a clear vision of the Wirral we want to hand on to future generations.



Improve services for the elderly

Improve services to meet the needs of elderly residents, supporting them to remain in homes adapted for their needs.



Improved rail service

Campaign for a reliable service on the Bidston line, supporting the half-hourly train services from Heswall that run through to Liverpool



Help cut energy bills through home insulation

Reduce Wirral's carbon footprint by increasing the energy efficiency of more homes, through schemes that secure reliable ways to help households save on their heating bills.



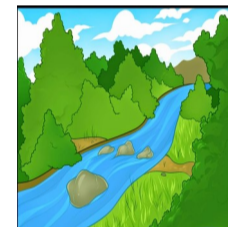
Improve support for children with special needs

Improve services for children with special needs and disabilities, being more responsive to parents to ensure that children are in the setting most appropriate to their needs.



End the dumping of sewage into our rivers

Work with other agencies to end the dumping of sewage in our rivers and the sea



Defend our Green Belt

Defend the Local Plan and Green Belt to stop building on greenfield sites, using 'brownfield' development to provide the new homes our community needs.



What really happens on the Council?

Your questions answered

Does Labour run Wirral Council?

No! You might think so from Conservative propaganda, but Labour lost control of Wirral in 2019. Since then, the Council has been in No Overall Control.

Isn't everything still decided by a Labour Cabinet though?

Again, no! The Council switched to a committee system of government in 2020. No party has a majority on any of the committees. Two of the largest committees are chaired by Conservative councillors.

Does that mean the four parties work together?

Well, that's the idea. The government-appointed Independent Assurance Committee which oversees the performance of the Council, said: 'It is essential that all parties work together to negotiate and then deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24.'

Did the Conservatives follow this guidance?

No, they voted against the budget proposals.

So why didn't the Liberal Democrats support the Conservative budget?

Even after weeks of discussions, with full financial details given to all parties, the Conservatives didn't bother to produce a budget of their own.

Really? But the Conservatives presumably voted against the 4.99% rise in Council Tax?

We've seen these claims too, but actually they voted *for* the increase. This is the official minute from the Budget meeting:

B. Resolved (59:0) (1 abstention) - That:
(1) a. the Band D Council Tax be set at £1,798.48 for the Wirral Borough Council element of the Council Tax, representing a general increase of 2.99% and 2.00% ringfenced increase to Adult Social Care, and the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 of £171.9m as detailed in Appendix 5.

Should we believe everything we read in Conservative leaflets?

We couldn't possibly comment!

A little local difficulty for Heswall Conservatives...

You have only had two councillors this year, after the Conservative councillor elected last year was disqualified for non-attendance.

In February, local Conservative members selected as their third candidate a councillor for a neighbouring ward who had been de-selected by the members there.

Now their national Party has banned him from standing anywhere and the Conservatives are recycling last year's losing candidate in Bromborough. You couldn't make it up!

Remember, to vote in person, you will need to take photo ID such as:

- a passport (need not be in date)
- driving licence (including provisional)
- or an older person's bus pass (NOT the Merseytravel over-60s pass!)