



Councillor Steve Radford for Deputy Chair

- Served as Liverpool City Council for 37 years
- Has served as Chairman of city's Environment Committee, Recycling Sub-Committee, Deputy Chair Housing Committee
- President of Liberal Party

I am adamant the Local Government Association, independent and minority parties should robustly campaign for:

- Introduction of Proportional representation to give voters effective influence wherever they live. Just look at how successful it has been in improving standards of debate and governance in Scottish local government.
- Local elections should not be held during a period of a general election. The two elections should be held in separate periods as they have distinct issues and media coverage should not blur these issues.
- Housing - It is nonsense to have one housing policy for the whole of England. Local councils should have the power to determine the best housing policies reflecting their local needs and circumstances. This should include bringing land designated for housing into use and also empty housing should be brought into use when it is being left empty for purely speculative reasons.
- Derelict Land and Buildings - we should adopt a Dutch system whereby councils can instruct owners to bring back derelict land and buildings into use or face the equivalent of compulsory purchase orders. There should be a greater onus on the owner showing diligence to put the land or building into use rather than land banking.
- Education - we should work to avoid religious and racial segregation in schools whilst respecting people's freedom of choice.
- Finance - we need a long term formula to determine local government finance and stability over a 5 or more year period. Councils should not have to be playing catch up to government whims every year at ridiculously short notice. A private business would not operate this way so why should local government?
- Environment - councils should be encouraged to facilitate sustainable energy plans within their communities.
- Electoral Commission - this bureaucratic body is a burden on democracy and should be abolished or at the very least streamlined.

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