



Portsmouth
Conservatives

GREEN PLEDGE





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“ As the Leader of the Conservative Group in Portsmouth, I’m committed to positive change to both help and improve our environment. It gives me great pleasure to present our updated ‘Portsmouth Conservative Green Pledge’.

We want Portsmouth to be the ‘green lung’ of the south coast. Our aspiration is to make Portsmouth one of the most environmentally friendly cities, not just on the south coast, but in the entire United Kingdom.

This comes with many challenges, but I believe that together with the Conservatives in central government and our positive vision locally, we can drive forward green and environmentally positive initiatives across Portsmouth. ”

**Cllr Donna Jones,
Leader of Portsmouth Conservative Council Group**

“ As we leave the European Union, it is important that we seize the opportunities presented before us. I believe that this must include putting the United Kingdom at the crest of the wave of sensible and good environmental policy to change our country for the better.

In creating our ‘Green Pledge’, we are combining work that local Conservatives already have underway. We have a vision to make Portsmouth one of the UK’s most environmentally friendly places to live and work.

We’re already introducing policy changes here in Portsmouth. The Conservative government is legislating on a national level. Together we’re working on green and environmental pledges.

I’m proud that it is the Conservative group who are leading the way on creating positive change to protect our environment, wildlife and making our city environmentally friendly. ”

**Cllr Gemma New
Conservative Spokesperson for Environment and Community Safety**



Conservatives

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CITY

A GREEN VISION FOR OUR CITY



**Our Green Pledge: Creating an environmentally friendly city.
Across this manifesto, we will detail our pledges and commitments.**

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Portsmouth Conservatives launched the city's first environmental manifesto in 2018 with the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Minister for Transport. We've expanded the manifesto for 2019.

CHANGING CITY POLICY

The Conservatives ran Portsmouth City Council from 2014 to 2018. Since 2014, in a small space of time, we were able to introduce a range of 'Green Pledge' policies and initiatives:

- The upgrading air-quality monitoring stations across the city.
- Renewing the Clean Air Strategy.
- Advanced our working with DEFRA to achieve better, cleaner air quality across the whole city through a joined up air quality improvement strategy.
- Trialling new bin weekly refuse collections to drive up recycling rates.
- Secured £1m for new popular black wheelie bins, which have now been delivered across the city and has seen a positive increase in city recycling rates.
- Working with tripartite and waste partners to explore building a new and modern refuse centre to increase the amount of materials that can be recycled by our waste / refuse partners.
- New waste bins for high-streets that allow recyclable materials to be disposed of separately.
- Introduced new policy to end single use plastics in City Council buildings.
- Encouraging businesses, event organisers and key-city partners to also eliminate the use of single use plastics and making it mandatory in future City Council Service Agreement contracts.
- Working with cycling groups and adopting (where possible) their recommendation for safer and better cycling, with the aspiration to provide quieter cycle routes, and safer, family friendly cycling to encourage alternatives to motor vehicle travel in and around the city.
- Working with British Cycling and Sky Ride Local to promote family friendly cycling.
- Planting more wild-flower meadows across the city.
- Creating new nature habitats around newly built sea defences in the north of the city (Anchorage Park) as well as new landscaping at the Tipner, Milton and Eastern Road Sea Defence coastlines.

Our Pledge:

To continue to pro-actively work, identify and change City Council policy to fulfil our Green Pledge, to make Portsmouth one of the UK's most environmentally friendly city's

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

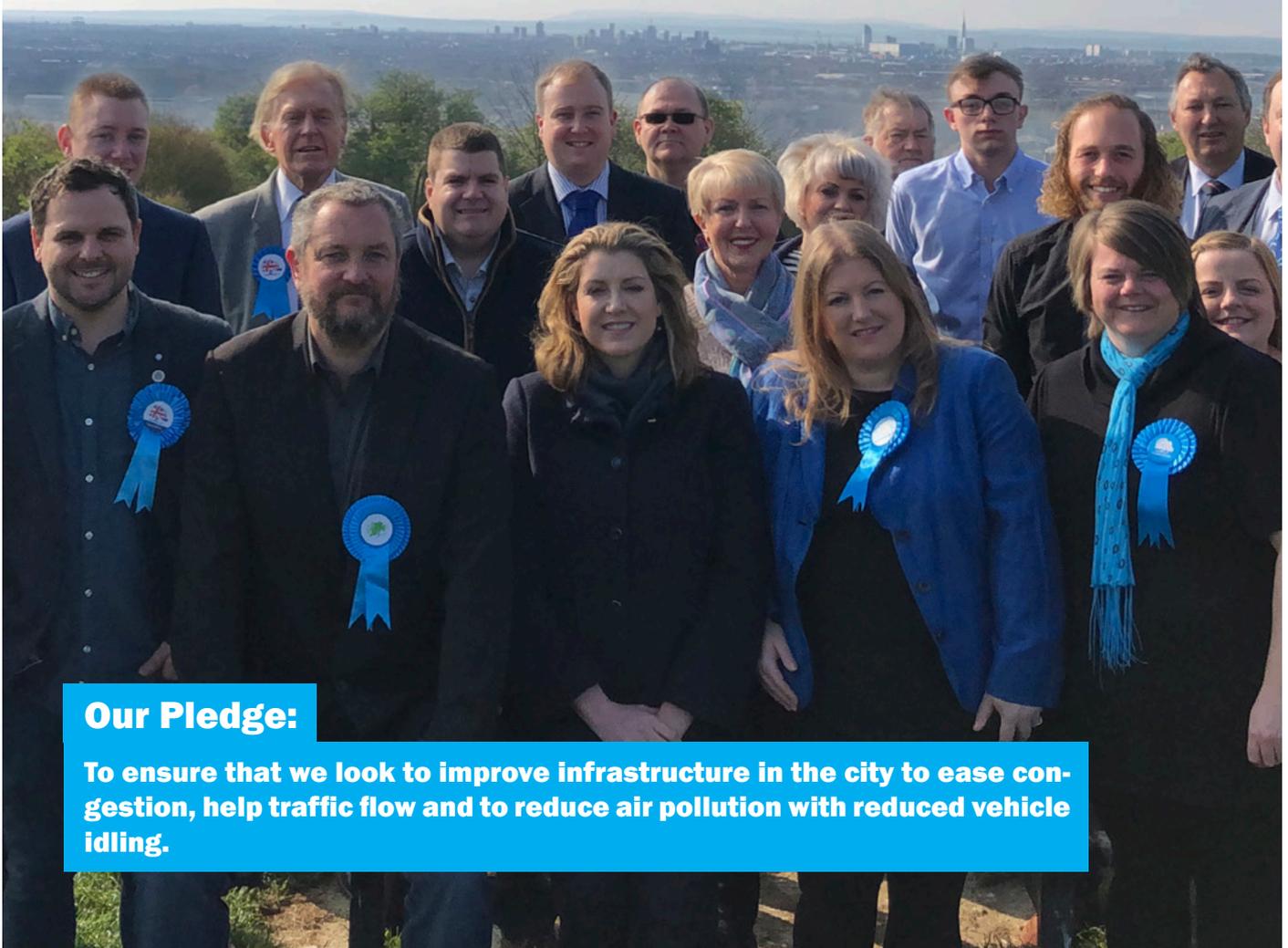


In order to stay as a great water front city, we must also look to improve our transport infrastructure. This includes improvement to roads, smart traffic light systems and more.

The Conservatives secured £500k for improvements to the Eastern Road corridor. This will include helping to ease congestion, improvement cycle lanes, including quieter cycle routes around Great Salterns, low level LED lighting along those routes and improvements along the whole Eastern Road corridor.

We have also been working to re-design the city centre road, with assistance from central government. This is a large scale project that will look to better aid traffic flow, reducing idling of vehicles, meaning less pollutants going into the air and a road infrastructure that can deal with future traffic flow for the city as it grows.

Conservative Traffic and Transport spokesman, Cllr Simon Boshier also brought forward a plan of smart junctions and traffic lights that are linked across the city, knowing how traffic is flowing 24 hours a day, and adjusting traffic signal times and sequences and monitoring congestion constantly. This will keep the city moving and also help reducing vehicle idling.



Our Pledge:

To ensure that we look to improve infrastructure in the city to ease congestion, help traffic flow and to reduce air pollution with reduced vehicle idling.

NEW CYCLE HIRE SCHEME

Penny Mordaunt MP called for new and environmentally friendly transport solutions in 2017. Cllr. Simon Boshier, the Conservative Traffic and Transport lead, began work to create a 'Pompey bike hire' scheme, similar in concept to the 'Boris bike scheme' in London. Through his hard work and exploration of exciting new 'tech' and innovative schemes, he was able to create such a scheme. The LibDems have shelved this project, despite it being ready to launch.

The new bike scheme had already been approved by councillor Simon Boshier. It is based around successful trials of such schemes that are now running successfully in cities across the UK, such as Oxford.

Councillor Simon Boshier said; "Cycling is a great alternative to using a motor vehicle if you live and work in the city. The new scheme will be online this summer and will make cycling even more accessible than before."

The floating bike hire scheme has been popular in the cities where it has been trialled. We know that the only way to reduce vehicle congestion and parking congestion are to:

- Encourage households to reduce the amount of cars per household.
- Provide alternatives to motor vehicles (such as the bike hire scheme).
- Promote the excellent bus transport network across the city

Our Pledge:

To implement the new Cycle Hire Scheme year and to promote in-city alternatives to vehicle ownership for moving around the city.



NEXTBIKE HIRE SCHEME

In March 2018 Conservatives formally launched a partnership with 'Nextbikes' which would have seen a community bike scheme rolled out across Portsmouth. Despite the LibDems' failure to implement the scheme. This remains a Conservative pledge.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE ON-STREET CHARGING

The Conservatives have pledged to roll out new city EV recharge points across the city for electric cars.

Having already installed electric charging points in some City Council car-parks, we continued to roll out on-street charging across the city, building the new charging points into lamp posts and on street points.

We recently unveiled the first installation of the new charging points and the city council is now rolling out the additional 40+ charging points secured by the Conservatives.

Above: Cllr Donna Jones (Leader of the City Council) with Cllr Simon Boshier, who secured £100,000 from the government's 'on-street residential charge point scheme'

Our Pledge:

To introduce more on-street charging points as the demand rises across the city. We need to ensure that we are forward thinking around vehicles and the infrastructure required for them.

NEW LED STREET LIGHTS FOR CITY

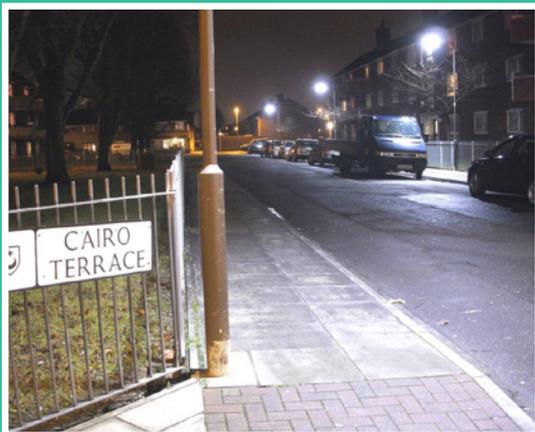
We're reducing our energy consumption as a city. One of the ways that we're achieving this is by introducing new, lower consumption technologies such as LED street lighting.

Because they last so long, LED technology is suitable for places where replacing light bulbs is expensive, inconvenient or otherwise difficult. LEDs are energy efficient.

Because of their energy efficiency and long lifespan, LED street-lights will also help reduce the city's carbon emissions as well as have the ability to be 'dimmed' too.

Our Pledge:

To look to implement new technologies such as LED street lighting as they become available and where feasible. We believe that as a city, we should reduce our energy consumption and look to do things 'smarter'. Reducing maintenance costs is a positive bi-product of this approach.



OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Portsmouth is an island city that is both surrounded by and contains unique natural habitats. From Portsmouth and Langstone Harbour through to the Solent, our open green spaces are unique and amazing. From Great Salterns, the common, North Portsea, Foxes Forest through to the 'Chalk pit' at Portsdown Hill, they are much loved green spaces

The sea

The sea, the wider oceans and our harbours are being destroyed as a convenient dumping ground for waste. We want better water quality, plastic free oceans and thriving harbours.

In order to achieve some of these goals, we need to:

- Continue to work with **Southern Water** to ensure that they implement their agenda to reduce 'waste water fallout' into our harbours.
- To work with organisations such as **'The Final Straw'** and **'Blue Marine Foundation'** to help reduce and one day end plastic waste going into the Solent and our harbours.
- Work with and explore ways to expand the **'Solent Oyster Project'**, which looks to re-populate the Solent with a million native oysters, which are natural water cleansers (bi-valve shellfish).
- Work with our partners who operate our local marinas and explore the introduction of more **'Sea Bins' for Portsmouth.**
- To work with primary school headteachers across Portsmouth to create a meaningful classroom education programme around cleaning up the ocean.

Green / Open spaces and parks

We have some fantastic green open spaces across the city, both on the island of Portsea and the mainland. From a forest to green fields, meadows, fields and nature parks, we must continue to work to protect them.

In order to achieve these goals, we need to:

- **600 new trees for the city.** We will continue with our pledge to plant more trees.
- **Open our new Forest School, shelved by the LibDems.** Children will be able to connect with both nature and our heritage at this new education centre, based at Foxes Forest.
- To continue to **landscape areas around our new sea defences** (Milton, Eastern Road, Anchorage Park, Hilsea and Tipner). This will help to create new and better natural habitats. We want to see nature thrive.
- To create a new **Special Planning Document** with a requirement for new developments to plant **'super pollinating trees'** and other appropriate tree species that can help lessen the effects of heavy rain / surface water flooding and help attract wildlife.
- Continue our programme of **planting wild-flower meadows** throughout the city to help bees and butterflies thrive, and where appropriate on grass verges along main roads.
- To provide new equipment for **'volunteer beach cleans'** along our Southsea beaches.

Our Pledge:

To work with environmental groups, maritime partners, utility companies to protect our harbours, The Solent and natural/green spaces. We also pledge to look to create special policies and to implement them across the City Council as well as provide the associated equipment needed to better enhance and protect our natural environment.

CLEANING UP OUR HARBOURS

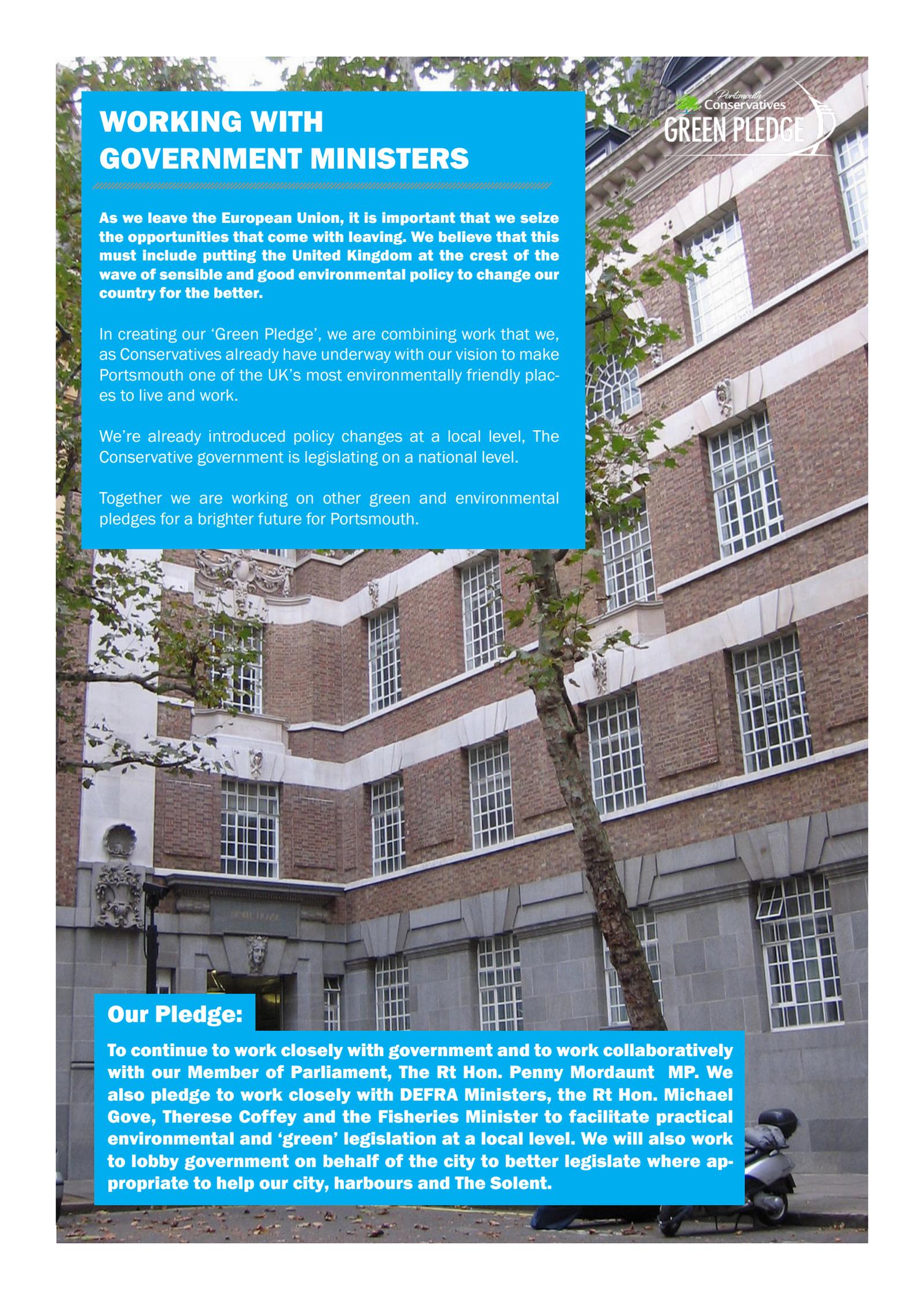
As Conservatives, we love water, we love the ocean and we love our harbours. We know that you love them too. In order for our harbours to thrive, we must:

- Reduce the unauthorised water releases into Langstone Harbour. We will continue to work closely with the Southern Water, to help reduce the microbial discharges such as E.coli.
- Protect our water habitats such as Farlington Marshes with sea defence enhancements.
- **To work with the maritime organisations to support their projects to re-introduce the native Solent Oyster, a natural bi-valve water cleanser. This will both support a natural cleaning method for our harbours, and also, in the long term, help our fisheries too. Each Oyster can clean and filter between 30 and 50 gallons of water per day! Imagine how much a thriving native oyster population could clean? Let's do it!**
- Work with beach clean organisations across the area and support/promote their events via a new City Council 'environmental' social media platform, to maximise outreach to volunteers and to provide support for beach cleans.
- **Introduce a range of 'Sea Bins' (where appropriate) around our harbours We also pledge to work with Portsmouth based marina operators and to encourage them to introduce Sea Bins in their respective marinas.**
- Continue to work closely with DEFRA and the Environment Agency as well as central government to seize opportunities for our harbours and fisheries as we leave the European Union.

Our Pledge:

To implement the above points in order to better protect and help clean up our natural harbours and maritime environment, for long term harbour health and to (long-term) support fisheries with new oyster beds.





WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

As we leave the European Union, it is important that we seize the opportunities that come with leaving. We believe that this must include putting the United Kingdom at the crest of the wave of sensible and good environmental policy to change our country for the better.

In creating our 'Green Pledge', we are combining work that we, as Conservatives already have underway with our vision to make Portsmouth one of the UK's most environmentally friendly places to live and work.

We're already introduced policy changes at a local level, The Conservative government is legislating on a national level.

Together we are working on other green and environmental pledges for a brighter future for Portsmouth.

Our Pledge:

To continue to work closely with government and to work collaboratively with our Member of Parliament, The Rt Hon. Penny Mordaunt MP. We also pledge to work closely with DEFRA Ministers, the Rt Hon. Michael Gove, Therese Coffey and the Fisheries Minister to facilitate practical environmental and 'green' legislation at a local level. We will also work to lobby government on behalf of the city to better legislate where appropriate to help our city, harbours and The Solent.

ENDING SINGLE-USE-PLASTICS

During our time running the city council (2014-2018) the then Conservative administration has already set a series of commitments that have been voted on by the City Council and supported by all parties. This has included:

- Committing to end single-use-plastics within Portsmouth City Council buildings.
- Committing to encourage our partners to end single use plastics at events taking place in the city.
- All future Service Licence Agreement's require the end user/organisation/business/trader to comply with not using single-use-plastic products.
- Carrying a range of Portsmouth branded re-useable coffee cups and water bottles in our retail outlets such as 'Waterfront Gifts', who generate profits that go back into running Portsmouth's library services, and mitigates cuts.
- Working with companies such as Lush! Cosmetics, a leader in 'plastic pot' recycling to collect bottle tops across Portsmouth City Council buildings. These will then be recycled by the company.

Our Pledge:

We're committed to supporting the government's legislation to ending single-use-plastics and to phase out single-use-plastics in Portsmouth by 2020 if we take control of the city-council on May 2nd 2019.

- Continuing to work closely with DEFRA ministers and central government as they legislate to protect the environment (and continue to take on the scourge of micro-beads and micro-plastics).
- Encourage businesses, restaurants and cafés to sign up to the 'water refill' network, using the new water refill app, developed and piloted in other cities around the UK.
- Create a discount / loyalty scheme that is city wide, where cafés and coffee shops can offer a discount scheme and support independent businesses.
- Install 20 new water refill fountains across popular parks and green spaces across the city.



RECYCLING



In 2017, the Conservatives trialled new wheelie bin trials across parts of the city. We recognise that different parts of the city will need different solutions. However, the overall trial was a success. We secured £1m to roll out the new black wheelie bins across the city. We've seen a positive reduction in waste refuse and an increase in recycling rates. But there's more to do:

- Working with our pan-Hampshire partners and other local government authorities to look at the feasibility of creating a super waste / recycling centre in Hampshire that will allow the recycling of more materials than we currently can with the existing facilities in Hampshire. This could allow us to start recycling more materials than we currently can and also make curb side collections more viable.
- Keeping our recycling centres (tips) open for local people. Almost all items that people fly tip can be disposed of at the Port Solent recycling centre free of charge.
- Keeping them free of charge for Portsmouth Council Tax payers.
- To work with other organisations to help setup smaller recycling schemes within the city where possible, such as recycling of plastic bottle tops and other materials.
- **To trial and install new recycling waste bins in our high-streets to give people the option to recycle materials from the 'get go'.**

Our Pledge:

**To work with our tripartite waste partners around increasing the amount of materials that can be recycled in Hampshire.
To implement the above points across the city.**



EDUCATION

To work with schools across the city to promote the benefits of working for a greener city and a greener planet.

- Through the Education Cabinet Member, work with school heads.
- Create a special / dedicated programme for primary schools that is interactive and a fun way to learn about the environment.
- **The creation of a forest school in Foxes Forest.** This will allow school children to connect with nature within the city. Councillor Hannah Hockaday has secured **£125,000 (through the Conservative capital budget)** to create this new forest school here in Portsmouth. The city council under the LibDems still haven't implemented this and we're told also haven't yet spent the funding. We will ensure that this policy is implemented and that the Forest School is created if we take back control of the city council on May 2nd with full funding.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality has been at the front of the green agenda for some time. Portsmouth Conservatives support cleaner air and are working with DEFRA and central government to help support better and cleaner air quality. To do this we will:

- Continue to implement the air quality strategy for Portsmouth.
- To join up work across the Traffic and Transport, Environment and regeneration portfolios to look at ways to help reduce congestion, redesign roads, implement smart technology to help reduce congestion and reduce vehicle idling.
- Continue to look to roll out 'on-street charging' as electric vehicle ownership increases.
- To implement the Conservative designed '**Pompey Bike Hire**' scheme which we'd already worked on for a long time and was ready to launch in 2018.
- To promote better public transport use across the city.
- To continue to invest in air quality monitoring equipment and stations across Portsmouth.



Councillor Donna Jones and Therese Coffey MP, the DEFRA Minister responsible for air quality.



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