

# ***Trafford***

# **Green Party**



## ***Press Release***

16<sup>TH</sup> February 2009

### **Local Euro-candidate demands green jobs for Trafford.**

With less than four months to go to the increasingly important Euro-elections, Trafford Green Party Euro-candidate, Margaret Westbrook, believes that EU Green policies could help the UK economy come out of recession stronger. Today she demanded a Green New Deal for the EU and the UK.

Margaret, a founder member of Trafford Green Party and local Stretford resident for thirty years, said today: "Decisions made in the European Parliament could help Britain come out of the recession with a stronger greener economy. Or they could do the opposite. So we need to send more Greens from Britain to join the 35 Green MEPs who are already there, fighting for a better economic future for places like Trafford."

She added: "While the other parties talk green, they don't deliver. A stronger Green voice in Europe can help divert funding from things like road building and nuclear power to schemes like greener transport, green waste management, green energy and better insulation for our homes (1).

For instance, last week Trafford Green Party sent a letter challenging Trafford Council to investigate a staged programme of free insulation to all homes across the borough. Green councillors in Kirklees have already started such a programme, which will create new green jobs whilst tackling climate change. This is just one of the points in our Climate Change Challenge (2). If more funding were provided from the European pot for such initiatives, Trafford residents like others across the UK and Europe could benefit.

The Greens are pointing to worldwide demands for a Green New Deal - from the UN, from US President Barack Obama and California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and from countries like Japan and Korea. But Margaret warned, "In Britain a lot of people are jumping on the Green bandwagon for the sake of popularity. We need to make sure real Greens who really understand the issues get elected."

She concluded: "In these proportional elections every Green vote counts. It's a brilliant opportunity to get more Greens into positions where they can help sort out the recession.

"The policies for creating new jobs and new industries are the same policies we need to tackle the climate crisis. With the Greens, this is win-win."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. MEPs have a role in setting the framework for EU structural funds through the co-decision legislative process.
2. Details of our climate change challenge below

## **10- point Climate Change Challenge**

### **Working towards a low carbon economy**

1. *Cut CO2 emissions by an extra 9% every year (creating a cut of 25% by 2011 and nearly 90% by 2030).*
2. *Collect 70% of all household waste for recycling or local composting by 2015.*
3. *Set a 20mph speed limit on residential roads across the Borough and put pedestrians first.*
4. *Make public transport more attractive by improving service, reducing fares and introducing more family and season tickets.*
5. *Support congestion charging as a tool to reduce individual car use, encourage car-sharing and support walking, cycling and public transport initiatives.*
6. *Support sustainable energy by sourcing all electricity, including street lighting, from genuinely renewable supplies.*
7. *Say no to the destruction of our environment by blocking expansion of Manchester Airport and any new road building.*

8. *Help Trafford residents to do their bit with free insulation. Support the creation of micro-generation power schemes and other kinds of decentralised energy production.*
9. *Set the highest possible standard for new buildings by insisting that every new development surpasses the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard.*
10. *Eat local with a food strategy that re-localises food supplies to schools and other Council facilities. Make it easier for everybody to grow their own and buy local through allotments, farmers' markets and other projects.*
3. Trafford Green Party was set up in January 2007 .
4. Further details can be found on our website [www.traffordgreens.org.uk](http://www.traffordgreens.org.uk)
5. For national policy see [www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk)

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