



# LOCAL ELECTIONS 2020

**HOW YOU CAN HELP IN YOUR AREA**

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**OUR CITIES, TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES ARE IN THE MIDST OF CLIMATE, AIR POLLUTION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ROAD SAFETY CRISES.**

Reducing car dominance and making walking the easiest and safest option for everyday journeys is a key part of the solution. Real change to carbon emissions, air quality and road safety will only be achieved with significant modal shift and a rapid reduction in car mileage.

As regional leaders and community decision-makers, we want future mayors and councillors to make walking a priority. We want this to be backed by ambitious policy programmes of transformation to make areas safer and more walking-friendly.

**Ahead of local council and metropolitan mayor elections happening on 6 May 2020, we are calling on all election candidates to commit to create communities and cities where:**

- **People can cross the road safely** – improve crossings and junctions so pedestrians are prioritised.
- **People on foot feel relaxed and safe** – invest in and roll out low-traffic neighbourhood schemes, a ban on cars parked on pavements and slower speed limits.
- **The climate emergency is prioritised and people can breathe fresh air** – tackle polluting vehicles and make sure that people can access public transport on foot.
- **Families choose to walk to school** – transform routes to school so they are safer, cleaner, and less car-dominated. Rollout School Streets street closure schemes and behaviour change initiatives across the area.
- **People feel that walking is an easy option** – support the creation of walking networks, with easy, attractive and low pollution walking routes across town and city centres. Support moves to car-free areas.



## How you can help

It's essential that we get our calls and messages out to candidates up and down the UK. **Can you help us amplify our voice in the run up to the elections?**

Candidates will be attending hustings events, knocking on doors and attending events. If you are engaging with candidates in your area, you can give them our Manifesto for Walking which can be [downloaded from our website](#).

You can also ask candidates questions about their plans to promote walking and reduce car dominance. To help you, we have drafted a set of questions to find out what your candidates will do on these issues if they are elected.

- If elected, how would you guarantee the priority of walking and cycling across your transport policy?
- What do you see as being the main benefits of active travel? And how will you work to ensure everyone enjoys these benefits?

## People can cross the road safely

- Will you undertake a full review of pedestrian crossings across your area, to ensure they are fit for purpose and prioritise people on foot?
- As Mayor/Councillor, how would you ensure crossings throughout the area fully optimised for pedestrians?

## People on foot feel relaxed and safe

- Low traffic neighbourhood schemes create streets that are quieter, where children play out, and air pollution is lower. If elected, would you support expansion of low traffic neighbourhoods?
- Pavement parking from cars, vans and lorries often forces people off the pavement and onto the road. This is particularly dangerous for many, including blind and partially-sighted people, parents with pushchairs and young children, and wheelchair users and others with mobility aids. If elected how would you tackle pavement parking in this area?
- Pavement parking and clutter is a major issue up and down the country. How would you ensure our pavements are made safe and clear for everyone to use?
- As Councillor/Mayor, how would you enforce speed limits across the area, so roads and neighbourhoods are safer for all?
- To improve the safety of all, will you commit to introducing 20mph speed limits across all streets where people live, work, play and shop?



## The climate emergency is prioritised and people can breathe fresh air

- Across our cities and towns, people are breathing in toxic air caused by motor traffic. As Councillor/Mayor what steps would you take to tackle polluting vehicles?
- If elected, how would you work with the area's organisations and decision-makers to address air pollution and ensure it's a priority issues for all leaders across the area?
- How will you tackle issues around air quality if elected?
- What will you do to move people out of their cars and towards walking, cycling and public transport?

## Families choose to walk to school

- What do you believe are the best ways to get more families choosing to walk to and from school?
- If elected, would you commit to/continue to explore school street schemes with schools across the area?
- Would you prioritise school route and street management, maintenance and lighting in your transport budget?
- For a generation the number of children walking to primary school has declined. 70 per cent of pupils used to walk to school, and now only 47 per cent do. What would you do, if elected, to support pupils and schools to ensure children could walk to school, and that walking was the easy option?

## People feel that walking is an easy option

- Walking networks can take the pressure off public transport and reduce the reliance on private hire vehicles. These improved routes invite visitors, residents and workers to walk between transport interchanges and attractions. If elected would you commit to exploring the creation of walking networks?
- How would you ensure all local leaders and decision-makers are committed to improving walking routes across the area?
- How would you ensure there is specific investment and budget allocated to develop low pollution walking routes across the city?

**We are keen to know what candidates are saying in answer to these questions.** Please let us know about any action you are taking and any responses you are receiving, by contacting Will Griffiths-Stent, Engagement Manager, at [will.griffiths-stent@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:will.griffiths-stent@livingstreets.org.uk)



**We are Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking. Our mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.**

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