

Liberal Democrats 

**THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE**

**ROB MCALLISTER-BELL**

**FOR MAYOR OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION**

Dear Resident,

I want to be your next Metro Mayor because our Liverpool City Region needs a strong voice, who listens to you and loudly makes the case for local investment, innovation and progress.

I'm proud of our region and its people. For too long, local politicians have stood in Manchester's shadow instead of demanding what is best for the people of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral.

You deserve a Metro Mayor with an

ambitious plan for our region, plus the drive & determination to deliver real change.

I will never accept second best for us.

If you lend me your vote on May 2nd, I promise to be your voice, championing the issues that matter to you, your family and all of our communities.

Our region has a great history, I believe we can have an even greater future.

With Best Wishes,

**Rob McAllister-Bell**

Liberal Democrat candidate for Metro Mayor.



# ROB MCALLISTER-BELL

A FRESH START FOR OUR CITY REGION

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# Delivering a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy

**Our city region has the capacity to have a truly vibrant and green economy that delivers for everyone. New transport and green energy initiatives will create well paid highly skilled job opportunities.**

Our university sector and teaching hospitals are leaders in scientific and medical innovation. From the days of Dr Duncan, the first Director of Public Health to the medical innovations of Florence Nightingale and Agnes Jones, we have been at the forefront of knowledge and progress. We can continue to build on this legacy and make the region healthier and more prosperous.

We have world class universities but too often graduates are forced to leave our region to find employment. More needs to be done to enhance the links between them and the communities in which they are situated, and to incubate new inventions and discoveries into the start-up businesses that can grow into the high skilled employers of the future.

## Rob's solution:

- ▶ Build greater links between our three universities and the local communities and businesses.
- ▶ work with our universities to take new technologies & discoveries, and develop them into new businesses employing local people.
- ▶ Create a heritage forum including the national museums, National Trust, the councils and Metro Mayor to promote our heritage.
- ▶ Work across the region with the knowledge, health and business sectors to create quality apprenticeships.
- ▶ Maintain and build on our City Region's strong links with Ireland and the EU to

# A fair and inclusive City Region

**Far too many people in our region are unable to cope with the cost of living crisis and for some, this means losing their homes and ending up on the streets.**

People cannot have freedom to live their lives if they are living in poverty. It must be an especial priority to deal with childhood poverty which blights families and young lives. We must all have the freedom to live happy and fulfilled lives, free from poverty and the expectation of conformity.

## Rob's solution:

- ▶ A City Region wide homelessness strategy to tackle rough sleeping, with a shelter for every night.
- ▶ Free temporary public transport for those presenting themselves as homeless
- ▶ An increase in house building on brown field sites across the city region, with a particular emphasis on new council housing. Council housing went from the jewel in the crown to suffering from lack of funding and frankly lack of political interest. It should again be housing that people want to live in, bring up their families in and be proud to call home
- ▶ Supporting people who didn't have the chance to learn a skill at 16 or 18 to go back into the classroom and learn again - be it a trade or qualification.
- ▶ Declare the city region as the first to have a Year Round Pride. LCR Pride is a fantastic event but Pride must be about campaigning on LGBTQ+ issues all year round and celebrating the great diversity of our city region.
- ▶ Lobby for the Liverpool City Region to pilot Universal Basic Income to tackle poverty and help the poorest in society escape the benefits trap. This will also unleash the entrepreneurial potential of so many who cannot presently make the leap to running their own business for fear of falling into poverty, particularly while their business is in the start up years.



# Creating a connected region

**Whether its leisure, business or education, a truly connected and accessible city region is the key to increasing enjoyment and success.**

Everyone should have easy access to an excellent, cheap, safe and clean public transport network across the region. The enhancement of our streetscapes with trees and green innovations will mean that walking and wheeling around our region is a healthier and more attractive proposition.

Our city region has some of the most dangerous roads and England's worst environment for pedestrians, discouraging walking and cycling.

Good regional, national and international links are an essential part of attracting much needed inward investment, supporting our existing industries and growing the visitor economy.

## Rob's solution:

- ▶ Work with district councils to tackle bottlenecks on key routes and tackle unreliable services.
- ▶ Support public transport and cycling by improving key routes throughout the region. This includes better use of technology to repair major roads to make them safe for cyclists and more comfortable for bus passengers.
- ▶ Encourage innovative solutions to improve our roads and streetscapes to make them greener and fully accessible.
- ▶ Plant 1000 trees across the city region to enhance public space and improve air quality, encouraging people to walk and wheel rather than use cars.
- ▶ Lobby for better regional and national rail links to the rest of the UK, including the completion of HS2 to Liverpool and Northern Powerhouse Rail.





# Fixing our broken bus network

**Bus travel makes up the vast majority of passenger journeys on the Liverpool City Region. On key routes passengers generally receive a good service, elsewhere however poor services are leaving communities isolated and forcing motorists back into the cars.**

The current mayor has made local control of bus services his key election promise at every mayoral election since 2017. Seven years later, the Liverpool City Region is still waiting for this promise to be delivered. Meanwhile, yet again, Manchester is ahead of us.

Our region now has fewer bus routes than when the current mayor took office in 2017. Many routes have faced severe cuts particularly at evenings and weekends. Liverpool's City Centre Connectivity Scheme has split the city in half and resulted in fewer buses traveling to where passengers want to go.

## Rob's solution:

- ▶ Finally bring bus services back under local control.
- ▶ Use Restore gaps in the bus network and introduce more logical timetables
- ▶ Ensure that no-one in the city region has to walk more than 400 metres to a bus stop.
- ▶ Support the night-time economy with later running and night buses
- ▶ One hour bus tickets to allow passengers to complete their journey without having to pay twice.
- ▶ Simplify ticketing with tap on/ tap off to guarantee pay no more than the equivalent day ticket/Saveaway/Solo or Trio pass



# Creating a world class rail network

**Merseyrail is the envy of many city regions, born out of an ambitious vision in the 1970's to bring various disconnected lines into an integrated network.**

Only part of that vision was realised. Significant gaps remain in the Merseyrail network. Beyond the Northern & Wirral lines, too much of our region is stuck with an infrequent second class service or worse, abandoned infrastructure.

While plans move forward to create a direct high speed rail link from Liverpool to Manchester Airport, the best that has been offered for Liverpool's own local Airport is a bendy-bus masquerading as a tram. We must do better.

## Rob's solution:

- ▶ Introduce tap on/tap off tickets across the train/bus and ferry network. Immediately accept E-tickets on the Merseyrail Network.
- ▶ Make all rail stations on Merseyside disabled accessible.
- ▶ Look for opportunities to increase park & ride opportunities across the city region, starting with using derelict railway land at Edge Hill to create a major parkway site for the city.
- ▶ Pursue new or reopened stations at Baltic, Bramley Moore, Carr Mill, Gateacre, Otterspool, Sefton Park, Wavertree and Woodchurch.
- ▶ Explore options to expand Merseyrail across the city region and bring disused rail lines and infrastructure back into use, including abandoned tunnels under Liverpool City Centre, Liverpool's Loop Line and the Burscough Curves.
- ▶ Develop options to create a new rail link to Liverpool Airport, (not a bendy bus) either through Merseyrail or a hybrid Tram-Train solution.





# Creating a greener Liverpool City Region

**For decades politicians have talked about a Mersey Barrage, but achieved little. The recent energy crisis shows that it is time to stop talking and start acting.**

Climate change poses a real threat to our City Region. We must do our bit to fight climate change, air pollution and decarbonise our economy, but we must also prepare to protect our communities and local economy from rising sea levels.

From our bustling ports to our many sandy beaches, the Mersey is the lifeblood of our City Region.

In 2023 there were 2,061 incidents of sewage dumping in the Mersey - a 36% increase. Decades of progress to improve water quality risk being lost increased sewage dumping threatens our ecosystem, public health, and our visitor economy.

## Rob's solution:

- ▶ Press ahead with the construction of a Mersey tidal barrage to generate clean energy and reduce the impact of rising sea levels on the Liverpool City Region.
- ▶ Work to ensure that the Liverpool City Region is at the forefront of new green industries, and takes advantage of the employment opportunities these new sectors can bring.
- ▶ Lead a green transport revolution to make public transport, walking and cycling the obvious choice for most journeys.
- ▶ Hold Water Companies to account for dumping sewage in the Mersey, Dee and other local rivers. Rob will press for the introduction of unlimited fines for sewage dumping and a sewage tax on companies that pollute our seas and rivers.



# A Mayor who is accountable to you

The Liverpool City Region has now had a “Metro Mayor” in place for 7 years. Despite this, a recent poll for the Centre for Cities found that 53% of voters are unable to name the current mayor. 90% are unable to correctly name a single thing that the mayor does.

Without accountability, there is complacency. Too often we see a mayor who is happy to stand behind the mayor of the Manchester’ City Region and beg for our region to get a share in what Manchester is having.

We need a mayor who can step out of the shadow of Manchester’s Mayor, and demand a better deal for the people of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral.

## Rob’s solution:

- ▶ Hold regular mayor’s question times for the public, in each district of the city region.
- ▶ Regular policy forums with local business leaders, academics and charities to identify policy gaps and opportunities.
- ▶ Work with MPs, Peers and Council Leaders from all parties in the City Region to co-ordinate lobbying of government to get a better deal for our region.
- ▶ Press the government to realign police boundaries with the city region, enabling the separate elected role of Police & Crime Commissioner to be abolished. This will free up over £800,000 a year which can be invested in front line policing.



@robmcuk



/liverlibdems

# Like what you see?

## Help us deliver for Liverpool City Region

### HELP ROB & THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS WIN HERE

Donate or sign up to help the deliver the Real Change our City Region needs.

Name: .....

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- I will help deliver leaflets in and around my street
- I will donate to the Lib Dems (cheques payable to Liverpool Liberal Democrats or donate online at [liverlibdems.org.uk/donate](http://liverlibdems.org.uk/donate))
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