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**Greens Launch Euro Election bid in Manchester**

Stunning results in last week’s local elections raise hopes of gaining the region’s first Green MEP, says co-leader Sian Berry at Manchester launch.

Joining jubilant local Green Party members at the Friends’ Meeting House on Mount Street on Friday to launch the North West Green Party’s European Election Campaign, Sian said:

*“I am delighted to be in Manchester for the launch of this exciting campaign. The Green Party can win in the North West. We are here to celebrate and build on the stunning success of Green teams across the region in the local elections.”*

*“This has been achieved by effective local teams on the ground, working hard for the people they want to represent. Voters are turning to the Greens because they know we can be trusted to tell the truth and to deliver real change on things people care about in Manchester and across the region.”*

*“The Green message is really resonating now, amid calls from young people and citizen-led campaign groups like Extinction Rebellion for more radical action on the ecological emergency. People like our policies, share our values and recognise that their children’s prospects depend on choices we all make right now, for the future.”*

Gina Dowding, who has fifteen years of experience in local politics and high hopes of securing a seat on the European Parliament on 23 May, said:

*“The Greens are the UK’s biggest pro-remain party in the European Parliament. The Green Party is the natural home for anyone who wants a clear voice for staying in the EU as well as strong action to protect the climate and nature. In this region we beat the Liberal Democrats last time.”*

*“People are fed up with the failed leadership and complacency from business-as-usual parties that has led us to the current crisis. Meanwhile, Green MP Caroline Lucas makes a real difference by standing up for people—not tax-avoiding corporations. And our three Green MEPs have been a force for good in Europe. We want to stay and change the European Union and change politics for good.”*

Councillor Lee Alan Huntbach, newly elected onto Tameside Council, said:

“*I am delighted to have been chosen to represent our local community as a Green Party Councillor. People are turning to the Green Party because they trust the Greens to act on environmental and social issues. Our gains in the Local Elections across the country have seen us take seats from Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats; and that’s about people being fed up with the status quo. They want change and they want to be listened to.*”

ENDS.

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Notes for Editors:

1.The Green Party has a full slate of candidates for the eight MEP seats in the European Parliament from the region. In order of selection, they are:

(1)   Gina Dowding (Green Party Lancashire County Councillor, and Lancaster City Councillor)

(2)   Wendy Olsen (Former Green Party mayoral candidate for Salford)

(3)   Jessica Northey (Member of the International Committee of the Green Party of England and Wales)

(4)   Geraldine Coggins (Green Councillor on Trafford Council)

(5)   Rosie Mills (Young Green and climate activist)

(6)   Astrid Johnson(Leading member of Manchester Green Party)

(7)   Dan Jerrome (Green Councillor on Trafford Council)

(8)   James Booth (Leading member of Cheshire East Green Party).