



GREEN VOICE

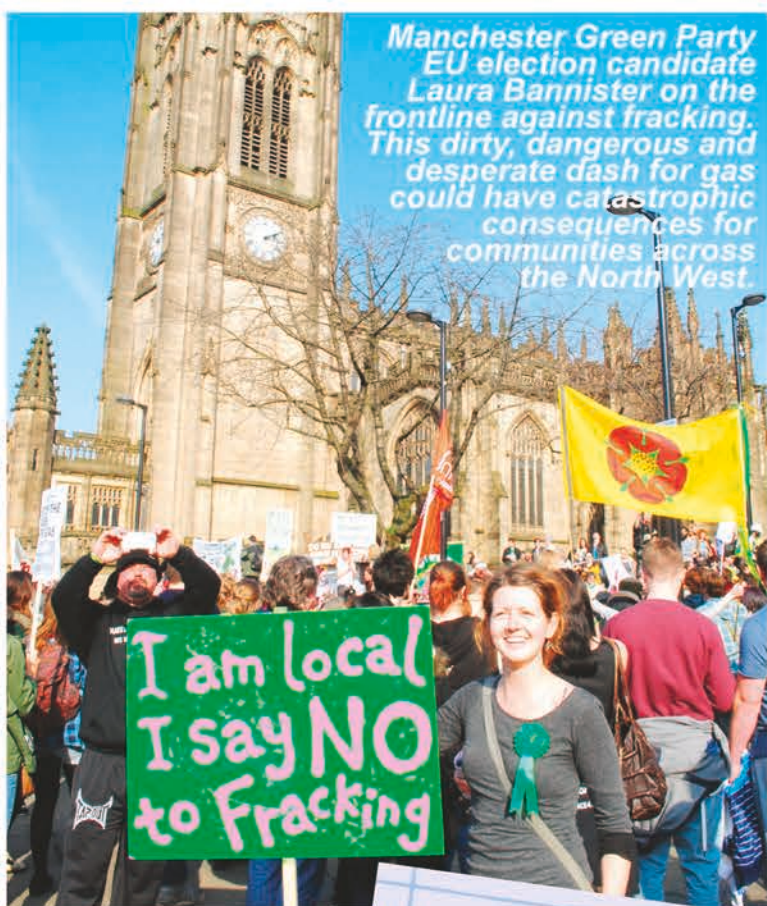


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Vote for what you believe in

Visit voteforpolicies.org.uk and find the party for you

Climate change: time for action



policies on a range of key issues. Once you have chosen the policies you agree with, you'll find out which parties those policies belong to.

“Take the challenge – you might be greener than you think” says Peter Cranie, the Green Party’s lead North West candidate in the European elections on 22 May “More than 360,000 have visited the Vote for Policies website so far – and the Green Party has consistently come out on top.”

Here’s why...

Business as usual – in the North West and across the country – is no longer a credible option.

On every front – social, economic, political and environmental – the main parties have failed to deliver in the past and have stored up trouble for the future.

The Green Party has a radical suggestion: vote for the person or the policies that you believe in.

At the Vote for Policies website, you can compare party

Issues	Green Party	The rest
NHS privatisation	NO	YES
Public service cuts	NO	YES
Major investment in social and affordable housing	YES	NO
Ethical foreign policy	YES	NO
Student tuition fees	NO	YES
Publicly owned railways	YES	NO
Fair taxation and clampdown on tax evasion	YES	NO
Nuclear power	NO	YES
Nuclear weapons	NO	YES
Fracking	NO	YES

It’s been a rotten start to the year for many. Who hasn’t felt sorry for all those people devastated by the floods?

The floodwaters may have receded – for now, but the bigger issue won’t go away: climate change. Will today’s coastal areas be under water by the time our children and grandchildren grow up?

And can anything be done?

“Extreme weather events at home and around the world are part of a growing

“Only recently, Chester University student Taurainashe Manonge told North West Greens about the havoc being wreaked by climate change in his Zimbabwe homeland.” “The science is beyond doubt, the threat is enormous.

“Now we have to act. But if you want action on climate change you have to vote for it. The parties that got us into this mess can’t be trusted to get us out of it and the climate change deniers



pattern we simply cannot ignore” warns Peter Cranie, the Green Party’s lead European elections candidate for the North West.

The estimated financial costs of failing to tackle climate change run into trillions. The human and environmental costs are unimaginable. Peter Cranie continues:-

“All over the world, year after year, record upon record is being broken, often with disastrous consequences for communities and even whole countries.

like UKIP will make things far worse.”

“We need collective, international action on climate change. A strong Green group in Brussels will make sure we get it.”

Ambitious, legally binding targets to curb greenhouse gases and stimulate energy efficiency and renewable energy are essential to halting catastrophic climate change.

Please join the call for action at:- stopclimatechaos.org – and vote Green in 2014.

Protecting Europe's wildlife

Criminals who poach wild animals or trap endangered species to sell as exotic pets are profiting to the tune of £22 billion a year. In fact, wildlife crime is the fourth most profitable illegal activity after selling drugs, weapons and human trafficking.

The European Parliament recently voted by an overwhelming majority to set up a new EU-wide police unit to tackle wildlife crime. Only 14 MEPs voted against the proposal – six of them from UKIP.

North West Vegan Festival

Make a date for Lancaster town hall and Gregson Centre, Saturday 7th June.

There'll be 115 stalls, plus a vegan beer and wine festival, free food, films, talks, cookery demos, children's activities, speed dating and meeting, and evening entertainment.

Find out more at: northwestveganfestival.co.uk

A Manifesto for Animals

With the EU elections just around the corner the Green Party has published its manifesto for animals, detailing the broad range of work by Green MEPs and party campaigners on animal issues.

Greens have the strongest policies on animal protection of all the parliamentary political parties and a proven track record of action in Europe.

From factory farming and the badger cull to puppy farms and bullfighting, Greens understand the need for cross-Europe action to save large numbers of animals from lives of misery.

Vote Green on 22 May to help make a difference.

Robin Hood Tax

Greens in the North West are continuing to push for a tax on financial transactions to curb damaging speculation and generate revenue for public services.

To support the campaign visit: robinhoodtax.org.uk and vote Green in 2014

Meet your Green Party Euro Election candidates

Every five years here in the North West we elect eight people to represent us as Members of the European Parliament. You vote for your

preferred party, and seats are allocated on a proportional basis – so the more support a party gets, the more seats it gets.

The Green Party is standing a list of eight candidates, and has a good chance of getting at least one candidate elected.

Lead candidate Peter Cranie is a college lecturer, trade union rep and father of two young boys. He lives in Liverpool and works in Skelmersdale.



In 2009 Peter narrowly missed out on becoming the region's first Green MEP. He believes passionately in equality, social justice and protecting the environment for our children and grandchildren. As your MEP he would work to create a Europe that benefits all of us, not just the banks and big business.



Gina Dowding is a Lancashire County Councillor working for better, locally-provided public services. She lives in Lancaster and has previously worked for the NHS.



Laura Bannister from Manchester works for Mind, the mental health charity. She is committed to fighting for social and economic justice.



Jill Perry lives in west Cumbria. A former teacher, she now works for a jam company.



Ulrike Zeshan is a university professor in sign language. Originally from Germany, she now lives in Preston.



Jake Welsh is a passionate campaigner for animal rights and lives in Manchester.



Lewis Coyne is studying in his home city of Liverpool, and has been involved in student protests against tuition fees and education cuts.



John Knight lives in Macclesfield, Cheshire, with his family and works for a major trade union.

Europe matters



Yes to a referendum.

Yes to major EU reform.

Yes to staying in a reformed Europe.

This is the Green Party position on Europe.

We all know the EU is far from perfect, but pulling out isn't the answer. We want to be in Europe, changing it for the better.

Greens across Europe are challenging vested political and economic interests, challenging corruption, aiming to strengthen democracy and bring it closer to the people.

And we're growing in number. Although the European Parliament was reduced from 785 seats to 736 in 2009 the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA) group keeps on growing.

With 59 MEPs (31 of them women) the Green/EFA group is the fourth largest, and most progressive, group in the European Parliament. Despite all the media attention given to the far right, it's the Greens who are working to make Europe fair and represent the interest of ordinary people.

The Green Party will stand up for the North West in Europe.

We're in the EU for you.

Why I vote Green

Green Voice asked Liverpool resident Magdalina Bhebe why she votes Green...

“ I don't usually take that much interest in politics, but I think these elections really matter.

Our generation faces a lot of challenges with a huge national debt, economic problems and now the impact of climate change on our



Green voter Magdalina with North West Green Party EU election candidate Peter Cranie

weather. Both England and Zimbabwe, from where I came as a teenager, have seen terrible flood damage in the last six months. These are global problems and they will need international co-operation to solve them.

I'm a college lecturer living in Liverpool and for the last six years I've lived in an area with two elected Green councillors. I get regular updates on the work they are doing and I'm happy with the way

they represent the whole community locally. I also know after speaking directly to Peter Cranie that at the last European elections the Greens were really close – closer than either Labour or the Liberal Democrats – to winning the final seat that went instead to the BNP and Nick Griffin.

I don't want that to happen again, so the Greens will be getting my vote on 22nd May and I hope you will support them too.”

Working for a Greener Europe – and a strong voice at home

Jean Lambert and Keith Taylor, the UK's two Green MEPs, have been a powerful presence in the European Parliament, fighting for collective action on some of the most pressing global and local issues.

Together, they have:

- Protected workers from exploitation by successfully challenging

our own government's opt-out of the Working Time Directive

- Supported the 'Youth Guarantee' – and EU-wide effort to tackle youth unemployment by guaranteeing jobs and training
- Sought racial discrimination in the workplace by supporting the groundbreaking

Racial Equality Directive;

- Led the way on animal rights and preventing cruelty to animals
- Tackled deforestation by leading the call for a ban on imports of illegal timber
- Campaigned for fisheries reform to ensure that there really are always 'more fish in the sea'

- Helped ensure greater protection for women seeking refuge from gender-related persecution

With more Green MEPs, our voice – and your voice – will be even louder in Europe.

Isn't it time the North West had a Green MEP of its own?

News in Brief....

Gagging Bill

North West Greens have vowed to fight the so-called 'Gagging Bill', which was recently introduced by the coalition government to try to silence organisations wanting to challenge the government's track record, particularly in the run up to an election.

The Green Party believes that freedom of speech is essential, and that non-governmental organisations have a vital role to play in holding politicians to account, and highlighting the need for changes in policy on tackling poverty, protecting the environment, civil liberties and other issues.

Live a Better Life Fair

The Winter Gardens, Blackpool, is the place to be on Saturday 13th September. 150 stalls (including Green, Fairtrade and human rights)... free food... films... talks... cookery demos... children's activities... speed meeting, and after-show. Visit northernveganfestival.com for more details.

Support our town centres

Greens in the North West are calling for a levy on supermarkets to help breathe new life into our independent stores and town centres.

The North West Green Party is backing a 'Local Works' campaign that would see the bigger supermarkets forced to invest some of their massive profits in local communities.

To support the campaign, visit localworks.org – and vote Green in 2014.

UK government rejects EU support for food banks

North West Greens joined Labour in accusing the government of putting anti-European ideology before the needs of the region's most deprived people.

The criticism came after Britain rejected an opportunity to use EU funding to help with the costs of food banks.

The Green Party says the nation owes a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who operate food banks as crisis interventions.

Our policies would ensure that people have enough to make ends meet and wouldn't need to use food banks in the UK, the seventh richest country in the world.

"Scrap HS2 and invest in North West's transport" say Greens

That's the message the North West Green Party sets out in its new transport report.

Greens oppose plans for a new high-speed railway, because it will mainly benefit wealthy business people rather than the general public.

HS2 will cost every household in the country £1,500. We'd spend that money on improving the region's creaking public transport system for the benefit of everyone.

'Transport for the common good: a better deal for the North West' sets out a vision for improved transport in the region, including:

- Publicly owned railways run for the common good, not private profit;
- Re-opened railway lines and stations to improve services and reduce overcrowding;
- Re-regulation of local bus services to provide cheaper, more responsive services; and
- Investment in safe walking and cycling routes.

The full report is available online at :- northwest.greenparty.org.uk/campaigns



Green Party European Election candidates pose with a giant cheque for £1,500 – the average cost of HS2 per UK household. (photo courtesy of Ben Tait, Chester Young Greens)



Green councillors in Liverpool are fighting to save the city's libraries from the axe.

Austerity isn't working

Local authorities across the North West are grappling with one of the worst government funding settlements in living memory.

Austerity measures mean an average cut in public services of more than £600 per person in the North West – double the South East average.

"Across the region we are seeing the erosion of key public services" said the

North West Green Party's Peter Cranie.

Whether it's more litter on the streets, charges for recycling or cuts to crucial social services, we are all affected.

"If people want change they have to vote for it. Greens believe in proper public services funded through fair taxation. Support us on 22 May and send a clear message that essential services must be protected."

Cycling safely

North West Greens are backing calls for greater protection for cyclists on the region's roads.

The Local Government Association wants councils to be allowed to protect cyclists by enforcing cycle lanes and cracking down on speeding and dangerous driving.

Young Greens take action against university pay inequality

Young Greens last month launched action at campuses across the country as part of a national week of action against pay inequality at universities. Thousands of university staff are on low pay and short-term or zero-hour contracts, while university heads earn more than the Prime Minister. Young Greens say that if university heads took a pay cut to £140,000 – still an enormous sum – the money raised could bring thousands of minimum wage workers up to a Living Wage.

Roads to nowhere

Greens in Cheshire are calling for a moratorium on road building as England begins to feel the effects of climate change.

Cheshire Euro candidate, John Knight, says major road schemes such as the A6MARR will devastate huge swathes of greenbelt, increase the volume of road and air transport, use up precious resources, increase pollution and take jobs away from local communities.

The Green Party wants to see investment in public transport initiatives that will boost local economies and connect people with easy-to-reach jobs.

Energy North West: Clean and Green

A new Green Party report calls for a North West-wide programme to make all homes energy efficient as part of the battle against cold homes, rising energy bills and climate change. Installing proper insulation and domestic-scale renewable energy could be funded through 'recycled' carbon taxes to bring homes out of fuel poverty and generate thousands of jobs. Find the report at northwest.greenparty.org.uk

Saying "no" to nuclear waste

Greens in Cumbria are making a stand against government proposals to bury dangerous nuclear waste under the county.

The government has side-stepped Cumbria County Council's decision to withdraw from the search for a site by removing the need for county council agreement. Instead, the decision will now be in the hands of those borough councils known to support the proposals on financial grounds.

Peter Cranie, lead candidate for the North West Green Party in the European elections said:

"Locally politicians from other parties claim to oppose the plans, but they do not have the backing of their national parties. Only the Green Party, locally and nationally, is opposed to nuclear energy and to the idea of building a deep geological disposal facility.

"It is obvious from the submissions of eminent geologists that west Cumbria

is totally unsuitable for deep disposal. Improved surface or near surface safe storage at Sellafield, coupled with effective monitoring, is the best solution.

"Ultimately there is no way to make this very toxic waste 'safe'. That's why Greens want to see a shift from nuclear power to clean, renewable energy." More information is available at:-

cumbriatrust.wordpress.com

(The website of a non-political group formed to oppose geological disposal facility plans in Cumbria.)



Heysham nuclear power station, Lancashire, March 2014: North West Green Party EU election candidate Gina Dowding joined a vigil marking the third anniversary of the Fukushima disaster and highlighted how rising sea levels and storm surges could spell disaster at home too.



Greens can win in the North West – only five extra votes needed per local council ward!

In European elections, seats are allocated on a proportional basis – so the more support a party gets in each region, the more seats it gets.

This means that smaller parties can win seats, if enough people vote for them. At the last European election in 2009, the Green Party narrowly lost out to the BNP for the last seat in the North West. As the graph shows, we came very close with 7.7%, but the BNP won the seat with 8%. We only needed five extra

votes in every council ward to win that seat.

This time around, your vote could make all the difference to kick Nick Griffin and the BNP out of Europe.

Wouldn't it be great to elect a representative for the North West who will work for the common good, instead of ones who promote hatred and fear?

Elect Peter Cranie as your Green MEP.

Vote Green on the 22nd May.

Vote share and seats won in 2009

Tories	25.6%	3 seats
Labour	20.4%	2 seats
UKIP	15.8%	1 seat
Lib Dem	14.3%	1 seat
BNP	8%	1 seat
Green Party	7.7%	0 seat

WAYS TO SUPPORT US

If you share our values we hope you'll support us. Any help you can give will make a real difference.

ELECT MORE GREENS

Vote Green on 22 May 2014 in European and local elections. Read our European election manifesto at greenparty.org.uk

JOIN THE GREEN PARTY

You can join us from as little as £5 a year. Visit - join.greenparty.org.uk or phone 0207 549 0310

CONTACT US

Email: northwest@greenparty.org.uk or phone 0151 727 7779

MAKE A DONATION TO HELP US WIN

You can make a donation by Paypal or debit/credit card at green-action.org.uk

We rely on donations from individuals like you – unlike other political parties we are not bank-rolled by millionaires and big corporations.

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