



Nick Cott for Hexham

Connecting with local people

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Dear Member

I am delighted to have been short-listed as a potential Liberal Democrat candidate to stand in Hexham for the General Election.

I was fortunate to grow up in the constituency, living in the Tyne Valley, and attending local schools. I have enormous affection for the area, and I still keep in touch with friends and associates. I actually had my first campaign experiences in the constituency, delivering leaflets for Philip Latham in Stocksfield at the age of just 14.

Politics has been an important part of my life and I care deeply about social inequalities. I believe in a free, liberal democratic society, which needs protecting and enhancing. My liberal values have kept me involved in the party for almost twenty-five years. I've been a local councillor in Newcastle for most of those, currently representing Fawdon and West Gosforth ward. In this time, I have pursued several roles. From 2004 until 2011, I was Executive Member for Children's Services in our Liberal Democrat administration of the Council and worked to address issues for children and their families. Amongst the successes was the award of beacon status for preventing and tackling child poverty. I have been involved with the Local Government Association and served on a Ministerial Advisory Group during the period of the Coalition government. I have been Leader of Newcastle's Liberal Democrat Group and Leader of the Opposition. My local government experience has been very important in keeping me close to issues that affect ordinary people – such as access to service, good schools, affordable housing, poverty, public transport etc.

I have done a lot of work to campaign for the party. I was Newcastle campaign coordinator for several years, working as part of our team to deliver election successes at Council ward level, and overseeing our policy plans. I am used to knocking on doors and speaking to people.

Outside of politics, I am a lecturer in history, working online and at a distance for the Open and St Andrews universities. My work brings me into contact with a diverse range of students of different backgrounds and stages in life and educational experience. I strongly believe that education should be available to all; and my major pleasure is seeing students achieve, sometimes very much against the odds.

The General Election should rightly see the end for this disastrous government. Having debased public life, having failed to deliver on public services, and on the economy, and having diminished Britain on the international stage, the Conservatives need to be defeated.

If you elect me as your parliamentary candidate, I want to be a champion for local people, to show them our Liberal Democrat alternative plans. I would work as part of our Hexham team to ensure that residents in Hexham constituency have an opportunity to hear our party message. I would work with the team to help support Hexham's various campaign plans, to help to grow the local party. A successful General Election campaign could trigger longer-term growth in membership and winning seats in local government.

I hope that you will vote for me to be your candidate in the General Election.

Best wishes,

Nick

Building on experience to make a difference