

MANIFESTO



Nick Buckley

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

FOR MAYOR

of Greater Manchester

2024



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OVERVIEW

We cannot go on the way we have been for the last half-century. The best we can expect from our political overlords is managed decline - and they seem to be doing a good job of it.

The question I ask is: Where are the leaders with a vision for tomorrow?

The Tories promise a bigger economy. Labour promises more public spending.

Neither will make us happy. We need to feel integrated within our community, caring for our families and for our neighbours. We are social creatures, not accountants or consumers. We need to fix the basics.

I am not a genius with a new plan – just a man with an old plan and a desire to implement it correctly.



I am not a politician so I have no desire for a political career or higher office. I want to do the heavy lifting today so those who come after me can continue to address our problems within a system that works for the people.

I am tired of the moaning. I am tired of waiting for someone else to fix our problems. I am tired of the apathy.

I will do what I can. The rest is up to you.

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Key Pledges

- Scrap the money grabbing scheme known as the Clean Air Zone (CAZ)
- Fix the police by turning them back into a Police Force
- Sack senior police officers who failed the victims of the grooming gangs
- Tackle knife crime by offering neighbourhoods a vote on Stop & Search
- Create a Free Speech Charter so everyone understands their rights
- End rough sleeping in one year
- Promote the family as the foundation of our society
- Create a Waste & Incompetence Watchdog to inform the public on how their taxes are squandered
- Support Bolton to hold a referendum on if they wish to be part of Greater Manchester
- Give the people a referendum on if they want to keep the position of Mayor



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Who's Nick?

I am a doer, not a talker.

I grew up in a single-parent household on a council estate. I went to a failing school and wasted the first part of my life refusing to accept my personal responsibility. I eventually realised I was holding myself back and my life started to improve immediately.

I started my first business as a Market Trader, moved into wholesale, and then started a new career at Manchester Airport. I had an industrial accident so had to leave. I found a new job at Manchester Council as a Youth Intervention Officer and then as a Community Safer Coordinator. During this time, I won a handful of awards for reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, and I was given the opportunity to advise the government on these issues.

When austerity hit in 2011, I took redundancy and used my payout to set up and fund a charity to help young people avoid a life of crime.

My charity, Mancunian Way, set up projects to address homelessness and also helped to uncover child rape cases. The charity is now multi-award winning and in 2019 I was awarded an MBE for this work.



Solving social problems has been my career for two decades. Experience has taught me that problems are resolved through hard work, dedication, and holding people accountable. I do not have time for pink and fluffy nonsense, incompetence or excuses.

I do not need to be popular, liked or admired. I only need to be respected as someone who does as he says. I say a lot and I will do a lot.

The first step of introducing honour into our political system is to vote into office someone who already possesses it.

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Clean Air Zone

No one wants this congestion charge – in fact, we voted against it a decade ago. Many politicians do not listen to the public because they assume we are too stupid to understand what is good for us.

On day one of my administration - I kill the CAZ. It is that simple.

How?

I will refuse to comply. Only the Mayor can implement the scheme, so I will stop it dead in its tracks.

I will challenge the pollution data. Much of it is out of date and its accuracy is open to debate.

I will use my election victory as a mandate from the people.

Beating the CAZ will be fairly easy, but this is only one battle in a war on the car. The eco-lunatics are coming for all our cars and we must stop them before it is too late.



That's why I will not be implementing any projects that attack drivers, restrict our movement, or make us poorer. I say NO to Net Zero.

To ensure we do not have a rebranded CAZ pushed onto us in the future, I will appoint a Motoring Tsar to represent drivers at all levels of policy making. Motorists will have a voice in my administration.

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Greater Manchester Police

How did our police service fall so low, so fast? I will transform this vital institution back into a Police Force. No more pink and fluffy. I want criminals terrified of the police.

I understand policing. I have worked alongside the police for decades, I was previously based in police stations, trained police officers, and designed crime reduction projects that won awards. I also know what it is like to be a victim of crime. I have 19 stitches in my head from an assault, my home has been burgled, and I have had a gun pointed in my face during a robbery. I am on the side of victims.

I will support the Chief Constable to cut out the dead wood, recruit and train better officers, sack incompetent and corrupt officers. I will re-professionalise the force so we no longer see scruffy, tattooed, foul mouthed individuals wearing the proud uniform.

Like many people, I am not happy with the grooming gang scandal and lack of accountability from senior officers.



I will set up a commission to look at the existing reviews with the aim of highlighting senior officers who failed in their duty – they will be dismissed.

I want you to see police officers in your neighbourhood – you pay for them, you should see them. No more excuses that antisocial behaviour and low level crime are not worth investigating.

If we deal with the small stuff today, we will have less serious incidents to deal with tomorrow. This is how we improve your quality of life.

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Free Speech

This is personal for me. I was 'cancelled' in June 2020 for warning people that Black Lives Matter was not what it seemed – I was proven right.

Luckily for me, with help, I beat the online mob and those who turned against me, but it was a traumatic time.

We cannot remain a free people without free speech.

We must be able to speak freely if we wish to think freely. It is by speaking to others that we gain greater understanding, develop our viewpoints, refine our arguments, persuade others to our point of view and gain insights into theirs.

Are we a free people living in a free country? Do we get our rights from Magna Carta, English common law, or the Human Rights Convention?

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'Common sense has won the day': Youth charity boss who was forced out by trustees for criticising BLM's 'neo-Marxist' agenda says his reinstatement is a victory against 'cancel culture'

- Nick Buckley has returned to his job as chief executive of Mancunian Way charity
- Mr Buckley was sacked after criticising far-Left agenda of Black Lives Matter UK
- Free Speech Union backed petition against sacking which got 17,500 signatures

By MARK HOOKHAM FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY
PUBLISHED: 22:34, 25 July 2020 | UPDATED: 22:41, 25 July 2020

I will commission a simple Free Speech Charter to outline our rights, highlight the relevant legislation, explain the meaning, and offer examples.

This document will be a tool the everyday person can use to ensure they do not have their rights violated by their boss, their HR department, the police, or government.

Freedom of speech is our most important freedom and it underpins all others. It is our birthright.

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Rough Sleeping

This is unfinished business for me. I have been tackling rough sleeping for nearly two decades since my time in charge of Manchester city centre.

Let me be perfectly clear – it is a national disgrace that we have fellow citizens sleeping on the streets.

I have a 4 point plan ready to solve this problem.

1. Beds – set up hostels in warehouses
2. Enforcement – end the begging which keeps people on the streets
3. Support – base support services at the hostels
4. Volunteers – coordinate teams of volunteers to maximise their help.



Greater Manchester will be a 'no rough sleeping' region within one year. Rough sleeping will not be accepted, tolerated or supported on our streets. Every barrier that stops people accepting help will be removed. Sometimes homeless people refuse hostel accommodation because their dogs are not accepted. We will provide kennels at the hostels.

One year to solve this problem sounds unbelievable. Everything is possible, it just requires determination and a backbone.

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Family & Community

The family is the foundation of all successful societies and communities and we disregard this fact at our peril.

For many decades now, we have undermined the family unit. We have tried to replace this with the state. This has led to greater state interference in the family, undermining and diminishing the role of parents, taking away the power of parents to express their views about how their children should be educated and socialised.

Unfortunately, the results of family breakdown can be seen all around us today. I want to change this.

The family court system is not working for parents, especially fathers and their children. We need more transparency and accountability.

Projects connected to the Mayor's Office will have to show how they benefit the family, promote family values, and bring families together.



I want to create a series of annual family fun days across the region that focus on the family, not identity politics or group characteristics.

I will set up a working group to look at how we support the family, keep fathers in the home, help unsuccessful parents, involve grandparents more, and promote personal responsibility in parenting.

A failing 'nanny state' is no substitute for a strong, loving, nurturing family.

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Waste & Incompetence

Have you ever wondered where your taxes go?

I can't promise they will be spent more effectively, but I can promise that I will shine a light on the waste and incompetence you fund.

I will set up a Waste & Incompetence Watchdog to highlight the failings of tax funded services across the region. As Mayor, I cannot fix the workings within the councils and NHS but I can embarrass their leaders into being better and delivering value for money.

Only you as a voter can change the system that treats you with contempt by wasting your hard earned taxes. Together we will motivate them!

We pay far too much tax in the UK – while our services get worse.



Transport for
Greater Manchester

I will start this idea of lower taxes by removing the Mayor's charge from your council tax bill – I will take zero from your bill.

This will be the first step in the right direction for other politicians to take note. I want us to spend less on our elected officials and I want to end the expenses gravy train.

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Many people tell me they do not want a Mayor of Greater Manchester. They say they were never asked if they wanted one, were never given a vote, and the position was forced upon them.

They are completely correct.

This has left a hole in our democracy and we need to fill it by going back to the people for consent.

I will give you a say on this question by holding a referendum.

If the people vote against having a Mayor then I will go to government and get it scrapped. We will then discuss what replaces the role.

If the people vote to keep it, then I will put in place the changes needed to make this position more beneficial, such as public scrutiny of the role so the Mayor can be held accountable.



We need to get back to the idea of politicians being our servants, not our masters.

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Extra Bits

SCHOOLS: I will appoint an Education Tsar to inspect our schools and start the long process of vital improvements. I want parents to have a greater say in their children's education, including what is taught about race, gender, sexuality, lifestyles and sex. I will highlight schools that are failing our kids and support them to excel.

BUSINESS: I will concentrate on small and medium size businesses as these are the heart of our economy and community. We need a plan to create the environment for them to grow and excel, while at the same time removing government interference and red tape.

TOWN CENTRES: The only place that feels like it has money and success is Manchester city centre, but we cannot concentrate all the opportunities in one location. We need a plan for how we are going to improve town centres and high streets. I do not have the answer today, but I will certainly look for one..



ENVIRONMENT AND

HOUSEBUILDING: I do not want to build on the green belt, yet we need more homes. I want to relax planning permission to change the use of commercial premises to become homes. We have many empty commercial units and brownfield sites where creating new homes can be achieved.

NHS: We save the NHS by improving the service. I will name and shame the individuals responsible for poor decisions and financial waste. No more money spent on rainbows, no more redefining what a woman is. No more faceless bureaucrats we cannot hold accountable – you will know their faces.

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The Future

I could write a book on how I would like to see our region change for the better. Real change takes time and one term as Mayor will not allow me to do everything I wish to do.

However, I am convinced that, at the end of my three years as your Mayor, together we will have created a brighter future for the people of Greater Manchester.

Crime will be at record lows. Knife crime will be a rare occurrence. The streets will be safer for everyone.

Our public services will have taken the first step to be more customer focused whilst actively reducing waste. Public anger created by the waste and incompetence Watchdog will be the catalyst these organisations need to implement change.

You will feel more in control of your life and have a say on all major decisions through open consultations or referendums. We will not repeat the mistakes of the CAZ. The State will interfere in your life a little less than it does today.



Life will make more sense. We will reinstate the shared social norms and a reality that does not change depending upon the latest social justice craze. You will be able to speak your mind without fear and discuss important topics so we can find solutions.

Schools will produce young adults who want make their own way in the world, not pander to ideologies that damage society.

I will give you a future where you will be happier for things will make sense.

Now, that's a future I want to call home.