

Respect Party Manifesto for Aston – May 2008

The new Aston ward, an inner-city area, was formed after recent boundary changes. It now consists of parts of Aston, Newtown, Perry Barr and Hockley. IMD (index of multiple deprivations) shows that the ward is deprived and has high unemployment. Labour party's 20 year misrule has left the area crime ridden – drugs, petty thefts, anti-social behaviour and much more! High unemployment, lack of affordable social housing, lack of school places, lack of social and recreational amenities for young and old; all these problems have meant that there is a high level of exodus of people from the area. This Lib Dem- Tory coalition has done little to address the problems but on the contrary have compounded them by their short sighted budgets and policies. The Respect Party will fight to:

- Promote principles of respect, tolerance, democracy, equality and social justice
- Get the government and councils to build affordable social homes for all who need them
- Get the council to create extra primary and secondary school spaces or to fight to have an extra school built in the area.
- Foster community cohesion
- Have more police on the streets and hence reduce crime
- Run projects which will ensure reduction and eventual elimination of drug and drug related problems
- Make Aston ward (consisting of above areas) safe, clean and green by demanding frequent collection of bottles, cans and paper from doorstep and installation of security gates and cameras where needed.
- Eradicate antisocial behaviour by establishing additional recreational and educational facilities for the young and making the existing ones more affordable so as to prevent congregation of young people on street corners.
- Enhance the lives of older and younger people, sick and disabled in the area.
- Establish multiple multicultural community centres in the ward which will increase community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Establish a job centre, banks and more shopping areas in the Aston and Newtown areas.
- Liaise with transport companies to run buses on additional routes to enable residents without cars to travel to shopping centres etc and to encourage those with cars to use public transport to reduce pollution.
- Establish an advice centre to enable residents to obtain information and access to rights and responsibilities.

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