

Green Party will not stand in Southend West by-election



18 October 2021

The Green Party has announced it will not be standing a candidate in the forthcoming by-election in Southend West, following the death of Sir David Amess last Friday. [1]

Greens have decided not to stand a candidate out of respect, and it follows a similar decision taken in 2016 following the death of Jo Cox MP.

As a further mark of respect, local Green Party members in Southend have agreed to suspend all campaigning in the town for two weeks.

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://southeastessex.greenparty.org.uk/news/2021/10/15/david-amess-mp/>

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Green Party statement on the death of Sir David Amess



15 October 2021

The Green Party has expressed its deepest sympathies to the family of Sir David Amess following the news of his death.

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“It is truly awful to hear of the death of Sir David Amess today. My deepest sympathies are with his family and loved ones at this difficult time.

“It is an essential part of our democracy that politicians are able to meet with their constituents and we must find a way to make sure they can do so

safely.”

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[Greens respond to government announcement on green investment](#)



14 October 2021

Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack has responded to the government’s announcement that the Prime Minister’s 10 point climate plan has attracted £6 billion of foreign investment and created 56,000 jobs.

Womack said:

“The Prime Minister’s 10 point plan has always clearly been about business as usual, with under-ambitious targets and an over-reliance on private enterprise, rather than a real plan of action for decarbonising the economy and this latest announcement is more of the same.

“While we obviously welcome the additional jobs in offshore wind, the fact that the government is announcing these jobs with such fanfare makes it clear they have no sense of the scale or urgency of the energy transition we need to make.

“Boasting about attracting £6 billion of investment shows how this Conservative government just does not get the sense of urgency we need and the role the state must take, as opposed to offering some wishful thinking about pie-in-the-sky technologies such as Jet Zero which don’t even exist yet.

“We need a Green New Deal to invest £100 billion each year over the course of a decade in railways, warm homes and millions of new sustainable jobs in order to truly lead us out of both the climate crisis and the economic challenges we face right here, right now.”

ENDS

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[Greens call on government to bring in carbon tax at COP26](#)



13 October 2021

- **Carbon tax a critical lever to help shift the UK towards a clean green economy**
- **Tax yield will help deliver social dividend by funding cheap and accessible public transport, free home insulation, and a basic income**

The Green Party is calling on the UK to announce a carbon tax at COP26, describing it as one of the greatest levers to drive change in society.

Greens propose the tax should start at £100 per tonne of carbon dioxide released, rising to £500 per tonne by 2030. [1]

The tax would apply to all carbon emissions, but the tax yield would provide a 'dividend' which would prevent poorer people being hit with higher costs. It would in part be used to fund a Universal Basic Income for all and help those on lower incomes meet the costs of transitioning to a carbon free future.

The party estimates the UK will be responsible for around 800 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2021 [2]. Its proposal for a carbon tax and dividend, starting at £100 per tonne of CO₂e, would mean up to £80 billion would be generated, which could then be used to invest in the big changes needed for a rapid transition to a zero carbon economy, and to support UK residents through the transition. [3]

Adrian Ramsay, newly-elected co-leader of the Green Party, said:

"A carbon tax is one of the greatest levers we can apply to help shift us towards a clean green economy and fairer society.

"Just 100 companies have been responsible for three quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions since 1988 [4]. A carbon tax would target these big polluters, particularly energy and oil companies, and render coal, oil and gas financially unviable as cheaper renewable energies rise up to take their place.

"But as well as tackling the climate crisis, a carbon tax will offer a social dividend which will help the UK to genuinely become a more equal society. Carbon tax yields will provide funds to invest in cheap and accessible public transport, free home insulation, and a basic income.

"A carbon tax is a win-win for the climate and for social justice. We urge the government to show true leadership and introduce such a tax as a key plank of its COP26 strategy."

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Summary of Green party carbon tax proposal:

A carbon tax of £100 per tonne of carbon dioxide rising to £500 by 2030, applied to all emissions, with some of the tax yield used to compensate those on lower incomes.

Cost increases from carbon taxes will be more than offset for families through the introduction of Universal Basic Income. Home heating costs would be reduced by a large-scale nationwide home retrofit programme. Additional transport-related costs would be reduced by investment in good-quality, cheap public transport and infrastructure for active travel.

The carbon tax rate will rise as the use of fossil fuel declines, which will help balance the yield out over time, but the ultimate purpose of the tax is to eliminate fossil fuel use and drive the green transition. Making fossil fuels unaffordable is part of the point of the tax.

While pushing other countries to follow suit on introducing a carbon tax, it would be important that such a tax does not place the UK at an economic disadvantage. There would therefore need to be a tariff or 'carbon border adjustment' on goods imported from countries that are not seen to be playing their part in reducing emissions to levels required to meet the Paris Agreement limit 1.5C – a policy currently being debated by the EU.

2

The Green Party has calculated the UK will be responsible for around 800 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2021 – [520m tonnes of production emissions](#), including aviation and shipping; [an additional 30m tonnes for the high altitude factor](#) on aviation; and [302m tonnes from imports](#).

3

The Green Party included its carbon tax and dividend in its 10 point climate plan published last year:

https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Communications/10_Point_Climate_Plan.pdf

4

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/jul/10/100-fossil-fuel-companies-investors-responsible-71-global-emissions-cdp-study-climate-change>

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Overwhelming public support for Green Party policies on tackling climate crisis



12 October 2021

Responding to the largest ever analysis of policy preferences on tackling the climate crisis and achieving a net-zero economy [1], Green Party co-leader, Adrian Ramsay, said:

“This biggest ever analysis of climate policy preferences shows that there is overwhelming public support for bold action to tackle the climate crisis and achieve a net zero economy.

“It is interesting to note that measures the government has either shied away from or failed to invest in are actually the most popular – a carbon tax, a frequent flier levy, large investment in improving buses and cycling and grants for installing heat pumps. This shows the government can be far bolder – perhaps they should just adopt the Green Party manifesto. No wonder Boris Johnson’s climate change spokeswoman urged people to join the Green Party [2].

“Given the findings of this analysis it should come as no surprise that the Green Party is regularly polling as the third party in British politics and experiencing huge growth in its members.”

Notes

[1]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/11/uk-public-backs-carbon-tax-high-flyer-levy-and-heat-pump-grants-study-shows>

[2]

<https://political-viewer.com/2021-07-30/boris-johnsons-climate-change-spokeswoman-join-the-green-party>

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