



# Making the change the UK needs

## My manifesto: Duncan Barnes

### Summary

Our country is facing recurring crises on many fronts, both nationally and globally. We need a strong, centrist, progressive, Liberal Democrat government to address these and move our country forwards, driving the change we need.

To be credible to voters we need to offer MPs who can be trusted by our fellow UK citizens to run the country. Having spent my career working with public and private sector organisations to improve their performance, and achieving success as a senior leader in a large and world-leading global organisation, as a Liberal Democrat MP I will offer that credibility.

A Liberal Democrat party in government will be able to transform our approach to delivery of public services, driving improvements in quality of life and economic sustainability for our people and country.

I will bring vision, competence and integrity to our mission of becoming again a party of government, delivering this change for the UK, and shaping the world around us for the better.



### 1. Our challenge

Our country is facing recurring crises on many fronts. Many are specific to the UK, such as the NHS and social care, education, transport and justice; and many more are on the global stage, including global warming, global trade and security. Our society is becoming increasingly polarised, along multiple axes - wealth vs poverty; leave vs remain; and even on different sides of culture wars that while important to some are trivial to many.

Neither our current government or the main opposition have the vision, the abilities or the intent to resolve these as effectively as we need. Our country needs a strong, centrist, progressive liberal government to take our country forwards, and only the Liberal Democrats can provide this.

I am certain that with a Liberal Democrat party in government, our country could make real leaps forward in the quality of life we enable our fellow citizens to enjoy. The applications of new technologies and the increasingly advanced use of data, applied in the context of core Liberal Democrat value and principles, have the power to transform our economy, our environment, our health, our justice system - almost every aspect of our lives. We as a party need to provide the leadership, the competence and the integrity to deliver this for our country.

### 2. My background

My name is Duncan Barnes, I've lived in London for 25 years, and now live in Chiswick with my partner and our two young children. I am putting myself forward to be your candidate to stand as an MP, to take on these challenges and work to make the UK the best that we can be

I grew up as one of four children, supported by two hard-working parents. I attended excellent state primary and comprehensive schools, thanks in part to the sacrifices my parents made; and my mother returned to nursing after we had all started school to support our upkeep. This experience left me with huge empathy for the hard-working people of the UK who try their best, are good at what they do and yet still struggle to make ends meet and support their families and themselves.

I have spent 25 years working as a business and technology consultant, with the purpose of changing the way the working world works, for the better. I work closely with new technologies, and the companies that make them, to help public and private sector organisations be the best that they can be at what they do.

I'm now a senior leader in my business, a world-leading global organisation, but I want to achieve much more than I can do in the world of work alone. I've been a member of the Liberal Democrats for ten years now; I joined with the purpose of becoming an MP, as I passionately believe in taking personal responsibility for solving the challenges that you can. I am determined to help the Liberal Democrats to become again a party of government, and so to be able to drive the changes that our country so desperately needs.

### 3. My vision for our country

I believe that our country needs leaders with the vision for what the UK can and should become, the competence to work out how to get there and to drive the change that we need, and the integrity to relentlessly put the needs of our country and our people first, always abiding by our core Liberal Democrat values and principles.

I believe that we need to fundamentally rethink the way that government works, from its current and historic focus on departments as siloes, to an integrated system that connects education to industry, social care to health care, and immigration to employment and public service provision. A system that addresses root causes of crime, inequality and unhealthy lifestyles rather than just their effects.

I believe in progress, and that a progressive Liberal Democrat government should seize the opportunity that new technologies and the use of data offer to make radical shifts in the performance of our public services. We should make investments in these, and in the industries that will support the energy transition and a more sustainable economy, establishing the UK as a world leader in green technologies. In doing so, we need to create the right environment for an innovation economy to thrive, with stable, forward-looking regulation and incentives, and investments in education and research on a par with our competitors in the global economy.

Only by making the UK the best and so strongest that it can be, can we have sufficient influence on the world stage to drive the changes that we need globally: joint action on climate change and conservation; collaboration on security, defence and maintaining a liberal, rules-based order; and maintaining effective, resilient global trade and supply chains that keep the world connected and efficient.

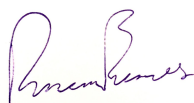
### 4. My experience and my commitment

In my career I've worked across a wide range of central government departments and private sector organisations, from energy & utilities. This has given me an intimate knowledge of how such organisations work, and how to drive change within them. And as a senior leader in the world's largest professional services firm, I bring experience of working across the UK, Europe and globally. I have proven ability to set direction, communicate effectively, work hard and lead by example, and make change happen.

Ultimately, to drive the significant change that the UK needs, the Liberal Democrats need to become a party of government once again, re-earning our position as one of the dominant parties of UK politics. My offer is to strengthen the case for this, by strengthening our cohort of MPs ready for government. We will not become the leading party in government this election, but we have a real chance of playing a role in government, whether in a coalition or through a 'confidence and supply' agreement. So, now is the critical time to put forward MP candidates who can then spend the following 5 years building our case for true leadership in government from 2030 onwards.

I am committed to bringing the vision, the competence and the integrity to our mission of becoming again a party of government, and of driving the change that the UK needs to become a true world leader in quality of life for our people and in the sustainability of our economy, with the influence and moral authority to shape the wider world in which we live.

Yours, Duncan Barnes



Contact details:

- Address: 10 Quick Road, London W4 2BU
- Email: [duncangbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:duncangbarnes@gmail.com)
- Mobile: 07711 580875