

## Jonathan Bartley & Sian Berry

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### Statement

Dear Green Party member,

We feel so fortunate to have served as your co-leaders over the last two years. We are proud of the party's record of action, growth and success across the three major elections we have faced in that time, and we are asking members to re-elect us this year to continue our work.

When we became co-leaders in 2018 we promised brighter Green ideas to change the political agenda. The 2019 general election saw us do exactly that with the biggest, boldest proposals for climate action and a Green New Deal, which cut through and set the agenda for the level of determination that is needed to tackle the climate emergency.

We promised fiercer Green resistance. With the rise of the school strikers and Extinction Rebellion the party could have gone two ways. We could have watched and waited (the safe path) or actively engaged. We did the latter and 2019 saw the party enthusiastically working alongside grassroots direct action more boldly than ever before, with Jonathan even being arrested while standing up for the right to protest.

We promised we would build our capacity to help Greens win even bigger. The membership at the time of the 2018 leadership election was 35,000. It now stands close to 50,000, ahead of all the party's projections. In 2019 we saw the most successful year for the party ever in terms of election gains. We more than doubled our MEPs. We more than doubled our number of councillors, increased our votes in the General Election by 60 per cent. And we went from being the main opposition on five councils, to playing a part in running 17 councils.

We promised wider Green impact by bringing forward more prominent green voices. From our seven star MEPs, Natalie Bennett in the House of Lords and prominent new spokespeople from our liberation groups and General Election candidates, to our regular calls with the Association of Green Councillors, we have worked harder than ever before to widen our representation in the media. Day to day we have worked with the field and communications teams to win more support for Greens right across the country, so your voices can be heard loud and clear by your communities.

We also promised to work with other parties, where we could, to win voting reform. Together we made history by bringing about the first formal national election co-operation for decades through the Unite to Remain initiative, securing joint pledges on electoral reform, climate action, a people's vote and reversing cuts to public services. We did this the right way: getting the views of members

first, putting a proposal to Conference to vote on, and making sure every local party made its own decision whether or not to be involved in the final arrangement.

Along with a bold General Election campaign platform, clear communication of our policies, and immense hard work from teams on the ground, this helped win major swings for the party and second or third places in seats across the country, setting us up to win more MPs in future to sit alongside Caroline Lucas. In 2019 we saved three times more deposits, candidate numbers exceeded 2017, and the much higher number of votes we received means more money and support now for our work in Parliament.

Above all, as your leadership team we have stuck to our Green Party values. We have practiced grassroots, bottom-up listening in the character of our leadership. We have put climate action, human rights and civil liberties at the heart of campaigning, promoted new voices and local successes, and stood up for democratic rights. We have resisted division, and we have promoted good communication and respect among members.

We believe that right now we face a pivotal moment for our party. The country is in crisis and at a crossroads, and the decisions being taken now will determine what our world looks like for decades to come. Above everything, we face the fundamental question of whether we will address the climate and ecological emergency - and whether we will deal with the rampant inequality, racism and poverty that scars the lives of millions - or return to business as usual.

The Green Party must seize this moment and scale up even more as a party. We need to be bigger and better, far more representative across race and class, and become a mass-membership movement that demonstrates the better kind of leadership this country so desperately needs.

Our work as your co-leaders has contributed to more action, more success, more impact, more trust and more power for our party. We know we all have so much more to do, and we are asking you to use your vote to grant us another term doing the work we love on your behalf.

Thank you for all you do,

Sian Berry (Camden Councillor and London Assembly Member)

Jonathan Bartley (Co-Leader of the Opposition on Lambeth Council)