

Zoe Nicholson

I'm a District Councillor from Lewes District in East Sussex. I have been Leader of the Council since we took control as part of an alliance in 2019, the only current Green Leader of a council in the UK. I also hold the Finance Portfolio on Cabinet and have been working with other Greens nationally to coordinate our response to the government over the recent covid19 financial crisis facing local government.



I'm a mum of two teenagers. Professionally, I have worked in health care for the last 30 years, most recently as a Chief Executive of a large social enterprise in the South East. I have been Management Coordinator on GPEX since 2018.

I've been a member since 2015, and my role in the local party is Campaign Organiser and Convenor of the Green Group on the District Council. Alongside my Campaign Manager colleague, I have been organising election campaigns since 2017, winning 10 seats, coming 2nd and 3rd in three other local elections. I was Campaign Organiser in the last General Election campaign in the Lewes constituency, a Tory held seat, where we campaigned in Tory areas to successfully reduce her majority, despite hostile environment from Lib Dem supporters arguing we should stand down. I have experience of winning votes and even seats in Tory areas, and messaging in ways that bring Tory and Lib Dem voters to us. For the County Council 2021 elections, I am co-ordinating our East Sussex election strategy with our other local Parties to maximise our opportunity to break onto the county council with 3 or 4 seats.

Electoral success is the measure of a political party. Our success at local elections in 2019 was unrivalled nationally in terms of growth yet seemed surprising to us rather than planned for or expected. We have still not managed to get another MP elected to join Caroline in Parliament. My experience on GPEX suggests that, collectively, we simply don't pay enough attention to our General Election strategy, to the garnering of resources needed and directing our finances to understand our target voters, increase our voter base and target our messaging accordingly. If we want to get more MPs elected in 2024 then we have to start now to resource, strategise, target constituencies and to select candidates. I do not profess to have all the answers, more a willingness to learn with others how to develop a winning strategy for 2024 that puts our local elections activity into a wider strategy.

I'll bring my expertise in collaborative working, my mature, politically sensitive and intelligent approach to problem solving with others. I'll put my in-depth knowledge of developing successful strategies towards achieving our election goals. As a member of GPEX, I understand the governance structures, the staff body, the appetite and the barriers. If we want to make big strides forward, which I know we all do, then being able to navigate all of those barriers is going to be essential. Thank you for your support.