

In Chapel Allerton & Chapeltown, the Greens will stand up for small enterprises

They are crucial to our economy: Often when people talk about business they think of the big guys. But small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) account for nearly 48% of UK private sector jobs.

They are great for our community: When we buy from local firms the money usually stays local. When we buy from big firms the profits often go elsewhere. SMEs also bring variety, personality, creativity and fun to the community – just look at thriving Chapel A and Chapeltown.

We want to protect local interests and services: Big multinationals can afford expensive lawyers to help them log profits in countries with low tax. This gives them unfair advantage over small local competitors and deprives our community of tax to pay for services we need like schools, hospitals and social care.

Small businesses often get a raw deal: Too often SMEs suffer at the hands of larger organisations, such as through unfair competition, unscrupulous actions or late payments. In 2013 an independent report found Lloyds and RBS had been driving small firms to bankruptcy, despite both banks being rescued by taxpayers.

Some key Green Party policies on business and the economy:

- Maintain corporation tax for small firms at 20% and raise larger firms' to 30%
- Crack down on tax evasion and late payments by larger firms
- Reduce employers' National Insurance in the long run to 8%
- Lower VAT to 5% for cooked food, entertainment and accommodation
- Introduce a community bank network to provide a new source of finance
- Allow local authorities to favour local procurement to help their local economy
- Simplify PAYE in the long run to make accounting easier
- Introduce a £10 per hour minimum 'living' wage by 2020 to put more money into the pockets of ordinary people

In short, we want a **#faireconomy**, that works for all.

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