

Cllr Barbara Janke: Biography



The business of Bristol is business, to adapt a phrase from a former US president.

Business drives Bristol's economy and plays a crucial role in shaping the city and the lives of its people. City council leader Barbara Janke puts support for enterprise at the heart of her work.

As an economics graduate, she has a strong interest in this key driver for future prosperity and knows how vital it will be for Bristol's recovery from recession. She demonstrates this by including economic development in her executive portfolio.

Barbara has chaired the city's local strategic partnership, the Bristol Partnership, which includes business partners, and has served on the board of the Business West organisation.

She is the first leader of a Liberal Democrat majority administration at the city council following the party's triumph in the local elections on June 4, 2009.

The Lib Dems have been the largest group on the council since May 2005. Barbara was leader of the council from then until May 2007, having previously served in the role between June 2003 and November 2004.

In 2007 a Labour-Conservative pact resulted in Labour taking power again. But the Lib Dems returned to power in February 2009 after Labour quit office during the annual budget debate at full council.

Barbara was previously a councillor in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames from 1986 to 1994 before moving to Bristol and securing election here in 1995.

She has worked as a teacher of modern languages and economics in London, Paris and the Bristol area and is also a teacher of English as a Foreign Language.