

Mayoral Area: West Midlands

Party: Green

Candidate name: Steve Caudwell

Twitter: @Steve4MayorWMCA

Steve Caudwell has encouraged members to read his [manifesto](#), and for an individual to draw their own conclusions on how his manifesto meets areas of interest.

“I am happy to say that I'm a believer in strong public services, as they have a vital role to play in social cohesion, public health, and economic prosperity, and elected persons at all levels of government should be championing them.”

Please write no more than 300 words on what you would like our members to know about your candidacy.

Although in some ways the West Midlands is a very different place to what it was in 2020, some things have not changed: our poverty statistics are still some of the worst in Europe; our unhealthy dependency on the car is as bad as ever; our desperate lack of safe, decent and genuinely affordable housing is blighting people's lives; our job prospects and rights at work stay low while the value of property and other assets goes up; and our political institutions still operate with undemocratic impunity. We must improve our democracy, economy, transport, and housing; our approach to ecology, diversity, crime and public health must all be reimagined if we're to create a society fit for the future.

We now have even less time to avoid the worst of the climate emergency that's waiting for us. But to do that we must first look after our people and give them what they need to be safe and secure. That is why we need to do things differently; to reimagine the way we live, work, move and prosper in a 21st Century metropolitan region. My three key pledges – an end to the West Midlands poverty scandal, a genuinely Green Industrial Revolution, and a transport system you can actually use – are a solution to that need. Covid-19 has woken us up to the reality that it is possible to change – if the political will is there.

A saying I'm fond of is, “if you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always got”. That's your choice at this election: whether you're happy with more of the stale ideas and the political status quo that has led us to where we are today; or whether you're ready to say “no more – it's time for a new direction.”