

Response - Steve Caudwell (Green Party)

Hi Adam,

I do support these aims, and I'm confident that the transport section of my manifesto (<https://www.steve4mayor.green/manifesto>) will be the best you will get to the five pledges you've outlined. I also quoted you - almost verbatim - during the Lunar Society hustings, because I'm happy to support the asks of the pledge in the main (I'm not sure whether an Active Travel Commissioner or a CA cabinet member with responsibility for active travel would be my preferred approach, or indeed something else).

But - I'm not signing any pledges during this campaign, indeed I haven't done since I entered politics in 2018, because the growth of pledge politics concerns me. I think it's the job of politicians seeking election to create the policy platforms they want to be judged on, and I think reducing that process to a series of signups on websites diminishes that responsibility. I've been a reader of manifestos since I've been old enough to vote, and I worry that we're moving away from that to seeking something more performative in our politics, which I think is problematic.

Best wishes,

Steve Caudwell
2021 Green Party Candidate for West Midlands Mayor