

The Green Party would address this through:

- Ending undergraduate *tuition fees*. We appreciate that the current level of applications to study at university reflects the paucity of other opportunities available to young people. This is part of a wider social problem that must be tackled. To be saddled with a huge debt for the right to access higher education at the beginning or middle of adulthood is neither ethical nor sustainable. Because of the way the student loans system works this would cost about £4.5 billion over this Parliament, and in the long run around £8 billion a year.
- *Cancelling student debt* issued by the Student Loans Company and held by the government. Taking account of the loans that it is expected would never be re-paid, the total value of these loans is estimated to be around £30 billion. Assuming that these loans would be paid off over the next 25 years, and taking account of interest, this amounts to around £2.2 billion a year in revenue that the government would not receive.
- Reintroducing student grants costing £2.2 billion over the Parliament. In the longer run we would support *student living costs* through the Basic Income.
- In the longer term, considering scrapping fees for *academic postgraduate courses*.
- Restoring access to *lifelong learning* by supporting mature students and their families. We will reverse the 20-year programme of dismantling the lifelong learning sector.
- *Reintroducing the block grant* to universities. It is essential that teaching and learning can be supported effectively across the sciences and the humanities.
- Encouraging universities and pension funds such as the Universities Superannuation Scheme to *divest* from fossil fuel companies. This would follow the example of the University of Glasgow.
- Supporting the 10:1 *'fair pay campus'* campaign. We are committed to ending the scandal of Vice-Chancellors paying themselves £300,000 a year while cleaners on the national minimum wage have to resort to food banks.

Green councillors support apprenticeships...

Greens in Brighton have made it standard practice for apprenticeships and training schemes to be included in all Council construction contracts.