



PAUL LOVERING

ELECTION MANIFESTO / 2026

GLOUCESTERSHIRE • TRUSTEE CANDIDATE

I am a lifelong Exeter City supporter based in Gloucestershire. Our club's supporter ownership is something to defend, not simply celebrate. I am standing because the Trust must protect Exeter City's future while earning the confidence of members through openness, sound decisions and meaningful engagement.

Financial resilience comes first. The Independent Football Regulator's State of the Game report warns of risks across English football. I support robust solvency assessment and a clear, achievable plan to build a cash reserve towards three months' running costs. They are complementary safeguards, not competing choices. The Trust should protect the Club's cash and assets, question borrowing or forward financing carefully, and explain the consequences of major decisions before members are asked to accept them.

My professional experience in public service and specialist security has taught me to assess risks, test assumptions, protect sensitive information and remain calm when there is pressure to rush. I also work independently in matchday security and CCTV at Cheltenham Town, where operational decisions directly affect staff and supporters. I am familiar with stringent vetting and believe the same seriousness should guide governance. Conflicts of interest must be declared, recorded and managed, with those affected stepping aside when necessary. Suppliers, advisers and third parties deserve independent due diligence, not automatic trust.

I do not believe every answer sits around the Board table. I want the Trust to use its members' knowledge: maintain a skills register, bring in independent specialists and use co-option responsibly to fill gaps. I would look for sustainable commercial opportunities and growing membership without compromising supporter control or our community purpose.

Our younger supporters should be given practical opportunities to contribute, learn and lead, supported by experienced trustees rather than simply consulted. Women, too, should have fair access to roles, decisions and development in a sport where networks can remain male-dominated. Diverse experience strengthens scrutiny and decisions.

Living in Gloucestershire allows me to see the Trust through the eyes of supporters living beyond Exeter. I want plain-English financial reporting, accessible meetings, fair complaints handling and genuine two-way conversation. Supporters should hear not only what has been decided but why.

I will be independent-minded but constructive. Protecting Exeter City means being prepared to ask awkward questions, listen carefully and then work with others to deliver answers. We own our football club; we must govern it accordingly.