

# **Yes we can, in Maastricht**

**Election Manifesto 2026–2030**

**D66**

**Maastricht**

# Yes we can, in Maastricht



# Foreword

Maastricht is built by people who participate. By you. By me. And by many Maastricht residents alongside us who love this city and work on it every day. In neighborhoods and districts, at school and at work, on the street and in their associations. People who are proud of where they come from and curious about where we're heading. People who know: progress begins when you dare to make choices.

This program is for those who want to move forward. For those who believe Maastricht can be more than what it was and that politics should be about more than preservation or management. D66 chooses a city that dares to build, innovate, and set direction. A municipality and community where we dream big and start small. A Maastricht that doesn't drift at the edge of the Netherlands but flows from the heart of Europe.

Maastricht is a city of opportunities. Historic yet progressive. International yet close-knit. Elegant and down-to-earth, but also about taking action and pushing forward. With neighborhoods where people know each other, makers and entrepreneurs, and students who see their future here. The strength is there, and a strong brand too. Now it's time to make sure that works for more Maastricht residents. That means: choosing what truly makes the difference and makes our city stronger.

D66 chooses to build the city of tomorrow. Starting with more homes, for example around the station. To invest heavily in talent, education, and the healthiest generation ever. To create space for entrepreneurs and development. For streets that become greener and cooler and where every child can safely walk or cycle to school. And social interaction and movement in every neighborhood of our city. Because the future deserves policy, not coincidence.

In this program you'll find D66's choices. But we don't build the Maastricht of tomorrow from the council chamber or alone. We do it together. On the street, at school, and in the neighborhood. By seizing opportunities and taking responsibility. That's why I invite you to read this program with the question of what city you want to live in and what you can contribute to it. And I ask you especially:

Will you join us?

**Marlou Jenneskens**

Lead Candidate





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## Chapter 1

# Building the city of tomorrow

# Bouwen aan de stad van morgen

Maastricht is not a city that stands on the sidelines. We are international, opinionated and strategically located in the heart of Europe. D66 believes that Maastricht has everything it takes to grow into a city of the future, if we dare to seize the opportunities that are presenting themselves now.

The arrival of the Einstein Telescope and the further development of Randwyck and the Brightlands campus represent a breakthrough moment for the city and the region. These are not isolated projects, but an opportunity to strengthen Maastricht as a city of knowledge: with innovation, high-quality employment, new forms of housing and a stronger position in Europe. Now is the time to take action.

This involves making choices. About what we want and where, and what we don't want. For D66, urban development and housing go hand in hand. We want people to not only come here to study or work, but also to live and stay. This requires space for new homes in areas where the city is growing stronger, in conjunction with amenities, green spaces and accessibility. Growth must advance Maastricht, not stifle it.

For D66, urban development is about quality. Quality of space, of design and of daily life. We want streets that invite movement, squares where the city comes together and neighbourhoods that are healthy, green and lively. Public space is not an afterthought, but the city's calling card. You should feel development when you step outside.

D66 links urban development to international accessibility. Those who focus on knowledge and talent must also invest in connectivity. That is why we want to connect to the high-speed rail lines via Liège or Aachen, so that Maastricht has faster and more direct connections to Brussels, Paris, London and the Ruhr area. Not as an extra, but as a prerequisite for growth.

D66 believes that Maastricht can grow without losing itself. By choosing quality, connectivity, ambition and courage now. By seizing opportunities and looking ahead. In this way, we are building a city that is firmly rooted in the region, open to Europe and remains attractive to live and work in.

## 1.1. Housing - Coming home to Maastricht

Housing is the basis of everything. Without a home, there is no peace, no security and no future in our city. That is why D66 chooses to give housing absolute priority. Not as one issue among many, but as a prerequisite for everything Maastricht wants to be: a city to learn, work, care for others and live together.



## Faster and smarter construction in the existing city

Maastricht is growing, and that is a good thing. But growth only becomes progress if people can continue to live here and feel at home. First-time buyers are looking for their first home, students want to stay, families are stuck, and senior citizens want to move on but find too few suitable options. That calls for choices. D66 makes those choices.

1. **D66 wants to get started right away with the existing housing stock.** By 2027, we want to relax the rules for splitting homes, enable Friends contracts and expand landlord arrangements.
2. **D66 wants to simplify plot division and make room for temporary and alternative forms of housing on unused plots.** D66 also wants to encourage the addition of extra floors to homes, particularly in urban areas and around stations. In doing so, we will utilise outbuildings and large gardens for additional (informal care) homes, with as little regulatory pressure as possible on initiators.
3. **We are investigating the opportunities for living behind and above shops, especially in the city centre.** We want to actively use vacant or underutilised floors above shops and restaurants for new homes. Rules that hinder transformation will be actively removed.

## Choosing direction for the city: space and densification

Space in Maastricht is scarce. This means that we must make conscious choices about where and how we build. D66 wants to make better use of the available space and is committed to densification in places where it makes sense. High-rise buildings are an important tool in this regard, for example in the station area, Randwyck and in the context of Limburg Centraal. This will allow us to add many homes in places that are easily accessible and where facilities are already in place.

4. **D66 advocates the construction of ten residential towers to meet the demand for housing where it is most lacking in the short term.** We support the 'Rondom het Spoor' project, which will meet a large part of the demand for housing. This also means tackling the Duitse Poort and possibly tunnelling.
5. D66 is proud of the steps taken by the municipality around Limmel aan de Maas. This shows that it is possible to build with quality and coherence. **D66 gives priority to infill and densification within the city,** but is open to more expansion and new construction in the outskirts (such as Belvedere, Limmel, Borgharen, Itteren and Lanakerveld), provided that this can be done to a high standard.

## Who we build for: mobility and target groups

D66 wants mixed neighbourhoods where people can meet each other. This means that neighbourhoods with many owner-occupied homes must have room for social housing, and that neighbourhoods with a lot of social housing can benefit from high-quality new construction. For D66, new construction is not an end in itself, but a means to stimulate mobility.



6. **D66 wants to reduce waiting times for social housing by investing heavily in new construction and transformation.** Abolishing preferential schemes does not solve the housing shortage and unnecessarily pits groups against each other. Building more homes does. That is why D66 is opting to accelerate housing construction, so that everyone in Maastricht has the prospect of an affordable home.
7. **D66 is committed to increasing the number of mid-range rental properties** by encouraging housing associations and, where necessary, relaxing regulations so that developers can also contribute. As a municipality, we are offering our assistance, for example by covering the costs of bicycle parking and public space.
8. **Good housing for senior citizens is essential for mobility.** D66 prioritises affordable housing for senior citizens in as many neighbourhoods as possible that meet the needs of senior citizens. We want to use tools such as Groot naar Beter (Bigger and Better) and the Verhuiscoach (Moving Coach) to make moving easier. This will create space for first-time buyers and families.
9. Thinking ahead about housing together with senior citizens. **D66 is committed to a structural city dialogue with senior citizens about how they want to live in the future.** Not one standard solution, but room for different housing preferences: smaller homes, shared living arrangements or living close to amenities, so that people can make timely and voluntary choices.
10. **D66 opts for living environments where care and support are close by**, without people losing their independence. By better connecting housing, care and social interaction, we make it possible for people to continue living comfortably and safely in their own neighbourhood for longer.
11. For first-time buyers, purchase protection and starter loans remain important instruments. In addition, **D66 wants to investigate whether and where we can abolish the 40-40-40 rule for housing division**, in view of the severe housing shortage among students and first-time buyers. We will continue the construction of student housing on the Randwyck campus.
12. **Travellers deserve clarity and perspective.** D66 wants to allow more sites in places where caravans are already located and enable new locations where space permits. In South Limburg, we are committed to more sites and fair distribution.
13. Housing shortages should never be an excuse for abuses. **D66 stands for good landlordship, with clear rules and active enforcement against abuses**, for example in the form of a 'Property Brigade' as in The Hague. The Affordable Rent Act provides opportunities, and if necessary, the municipality will assist in enforcing it.

## Creating space, reviewing rules

D66 stands for clear and predictable rules. Enforcement is not an end in itself. Where rules have lost their function or unnecessarily delay housing construction, they must be amended.

14. D66 wants to actively review obstructive and extra-legal rules and, where possible, amend or scrap them. Not to compromise on quality, but to enable initiative and speed. This means that **D66 wants to adapt the rules for transformation, housing division and change of function to the current housing shortage.** This also means that D66 advocates a more modern monument policy in which we preserve the monumental character of Maastricht, but do not create unnecessary rules to transform the internal part of a monument into, for example, more divided dwellings.





15. Where projects get bogged down due to an accumulation of requirements or high costs, the municipality will remain in dialogue with the initiators and, if necessary, take control. **D66 wants the municipality to work with initiators to determine what is needed to make plans feasible and to prevent good ideas from falling by the wayside unnecessarily.**
16. **D66 wants the municipality to acquire land in locations with major housing challenges.** Because land is scarce, an active land policy gives the municipality more control, speed and say over what is built, for whom and under what conditions. In this way, we can accelerate housing construction, guarantee affordability and safeguard public interests from the outset.

## 1.2. Economy, labour market and innovation

Maastricht is bursting with talent, knowledge and entrepreneurship. D66 has chosen to strengthen this strength in a targeted manner. This requires investment, daring to make choices and working together across borders.

17. The future of Maastricht's knowledge economy lies in Randwyck. That is why **D66 wants a strategic investment fund of at least 20 million euros for the Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus.** As a municipality, we are working together with the province, the university and the academic hospital to create the conditions for innovation. In doing so, we are strengthening our city's future earning potential.
18. **D66 wants Maastricht to do everything it can to strengthen the Einstein Telescope Pathfinder and actively contribute to bringing the Einstein Telescope to our region.** These are investments that will strengthen Maastricht's international position and create long-term employment.
19. **D66 wants Maastricht to develop a long-term economic structural vision,** with room for targeted development throughout the city. This means that we in Maastricht will also allow new economic concepts in specific locations outside the city centre when the market actively demands this. This also includes the hospitality industry.
20. A strong investment climate does not arise by itself. **D66 chooses to actively make room for high-quality and innovative businesses.** In this way, we broaden the economic base of the city and create prospects for different levels of education.
21. **D66 wants to strengthen what already works,** such as Team Ondernemen Maastricht, Centrummanagement, Maastricht Marketing, Starterscentrum Limburg and the Maastricht Awards. We will continue to support and develop these initiatives.
22. Where appropriate, **D66 wants to revive Business Investment Zones,** so that entrepreneurs can invest in safe, future-proof and well-functioning business parks together with the municipality. Practical cooperation is paramount in this regard.
23. The biggest challenge of our time is the labour market. **D66 wants the municipality to pursue an active labour market strategy,** in which education, employers and the municipality work together structurally, with special attention to care, technology, education and safety. We invest in retraining and further training, better matching and retaining talent for the city.
24. **D66 Maastricht ensures that international workers and their families quickly feel at home by strengthening the Expat Centre,** providing good information and guidance on housing, healthcare, education and language. They are not guests here, but are helping to build our city.

25. Maastricht's economy does not stop at the border. **D66 is firmly committed to Euregional cooperation** with Liège, Hasselt and Aachen. We work together on economic opportunities across national borders, remove obstacles and focus on better coordination of rules, so that entrepreneurs and employees can move more easily across the region. Regular consultation with our neighbouring municipalities in Belgium, Visé, Lanaken and Riemst, is necessary and desirable for this.
26. **D66 wants Maastricht, together with Studio Europa Maastricht, for example, to focus much more on the European branding of our city and to actively seek and capitalise on opportunities.** Together with other parties, we are actively lobbying for the arrival of leading European Union institutions in Maastricht. After all, the treaty was signed in our city.
27. **Maastricht Aachen Airport is not considered basic infrastructure by D66.** The airport is not a core task of the municipality and, as far as we are concerned, no more municipal funds should be allocated to it. We invest public money in facilities that directly contribute to the entrepreneurial strength of our own city.
28. Maastricht should not be a stopover, but a city to stay in. **D66 wants students to build their future here and invest in the first jobs of starters and local traineeships.** That is why we are strengthening the connection between education, campus and labour market, for example by collaborating with companies on traineeships and starter positions. Studying and working in Maastricht should logically complement each other.
29. Moreover, the economy does not only thrive on campus or in the city centre. **D66 chooses to bring economic opportunities closer to home.** That is why we are working on an economic agenda for each neighbourhood, with space and resources for neighbourhood entrepreneurs, community services and accessible workplaces. In this way, we strengthen local business activity and cohesion in neighbourhoods.

## 1.3. Entrepreneurial strength

Entrepreneurship must be possible in Maastricht. D66 opts for a municipality that inspires confidence rather than mistrust. The government sets clear frameworks, but does not stand in the way. This means fewer forms, faster procedures and genuine deregulated zones.

30. Too often, entrepreneurs get lost in a maze of departments and counters. **D66 wants a single, clear and personal point of contact for entrepreneurs, where permits, subsidies, signals and ideas come together.** Entrepreneurs will have a single contact person and a single, clear digital portal. The municipality stands alongside entrepreneurs, not above them.
31. **D66 wants to abolish unnecessary restrictions on terraces and shop opening hours.** This means that entrepreneurs, in consultation with their community, can submit well-founded and preferably widely supported proposals to an independent committee of experts.
32. Small and medium-sized enterprises form the foundation of Maastricht's economy. **D66 wants SMEs to be a priority for the municipality as well.** We will make municipal tenders more accessible to smaller companies and remove requirements that only large parties can meet. Local entrepreneurs will be given a fair chance to participate, provided that quality and price are in balance. In addition, we will facilitate growth with more small business units, flexible rental arrangements and support for financing through municipal credit guarantees.



# FESTEN

winkel . magasin store . geschäft

hi hello,  
come in

WELKOM



33. Entrepreneurs are more than just economic players; they are co-creators of the city. They provide jobs, liveliness, meeting places and involvement in neighbourhoods and districts. **D66 sees entrepreneurs as partners in building the city.** This requires a municipality that listens, thinks along and gives room for initiative, precisely where entrepreneurship contributes to liveability, social cohesion and pride in the city.
34. A strong city centre is indispensable in this regard. **D66 wants a city centre that is vibrant, innovative and inviting.** Entrepreneurs determine their own opening hours, terraces are given space and bureaucracy is limited. We strengthen city centre management and invest in city marketing, so that hospitality, retail and culture reinforce each other. Functions may mix: shops, workplaces and meeting places next to and among each other. A city centre that is also alive in the evening is more attractive, safer and economically stronger.

## Vibrant city

D66 stands for a vibrant city that offers space for the events that give our municipality its colour and renown. At the same time, we believe that less congestion in one place and a more even distribution of visitors will allow other parts of the city centre and the city to flourish.

35. **D66 wants the municipality to develop a more guiding vision on events,** encouraging distribution and daring to charge the most desirable locations based on their scarcity. D66 advocates that the municipality make more active use of the locations in which it has invested, such as the Frontenpark/Gashouder and the low Maaskade near Kesselskade/Maasboulevard, and offer them for events.
36. Until then, **D66 wants to maintain the 60-day standard and experiment with three wildcards per year** for very unique events that present themselves and from which we can learn.
37. **D66 wants the municipality to do more to create a low-regulation event site,** for example around the gasometer. We also want to investigate the possibilities for other event sites on the outskirts of the city, in collaboration with other municipalities.
38. In addition, **D66 wants to investigate whether the targeted use of higher or lower precario rights based on the scarcity of the location and the associated costs and/or nuisance** can help to spread events more evenly across the city. This means making it more expensive where demand is greatest and easier where space is available.



## Chapter 2

# City of opportunity: talent & development

# City of opportunities: talent & development

Investing in the next generation today means building a city that is stronger, healthier and more promising tomorrow. D66 chooses to enable progress by investing in people. Not with isolated projects or temporary impulses, but with choices that make a difference in the long term. Investing in education, exercise and health is not an expense, but a conscious and economically sensible choice for a city that can prevent problems, rather than repairing them later at much greater cost. Because prevention costs less than care.

In Maastricht, there are significant differences between neighbourhoods. This is reflected in health, school careers and participation in sports and culture. D66 wants to reduce these differences through targeted investment. Not everyone has the same start in life, so we do not treat every neighbourhood the same. We opt for a tailored approach and focus, so that children and young people have equal opportunities to develop. In doing so, we believe in the power of people themselves. D66 opts for participation and co-decision-making. Children, young people and parents often know what is needed to move forward. The municipality provides support where necessary and gives space where possible. In this way, we strengthen self-confidence, commitment and resilience.

This chapter is about how we do that: by investing as a municipality in cooperation between education, childcare, health, sport and the social base, and by putting children and young people at the centre.

## 2.1. From 9 months to 21 years

If you want to move forward, you have to dare to invest in people. Maastricht has strong schools, active associations and committed professionals who work hard every day for children and families. D66 has chosen to make better use of and strengthen these existing strengths by creating cohesion where there is currently fragmentation.

39. **D66 does not want to dictate what the needs and differences are per neighbourhood, but rather to start with a thorough and targeted analysis per neighbourhood, together with the people who live there.** In this way, we can clearly identify the challenges, opportunities and difference makers, and focus on effective improvements that people will notice.
40. **D66 is investing €2 million per year in a single integrated talent development programme for children aged between nine months and 21 years.** This programme brings together all parties involved in the upbringing, education and teaching of children and young people. Education, youth, sport, culture, health and social security are linked together, with a focus on preventive and neighbourhood-oriented work. Within this programme, we are creating a single joint long-term agenda. The municipality plays its part in bringing parties together, contributes to the goals from its own position, supports parties in applying for funds from central or provincial government, and combats subsidy confetti and accountability pressure.





41. **D66 wants to make transitions smoother, such as between primary and secondary education, and work on continuous learning pathways and coherent structures for care and support.** Professionals will be given the space to work together, without being held back by barriers between policy areas or different rules and budgets.
42. **D66 wants every child in Maastricht to have a promising start.** That is why we are focusing on the first 100 days and early, accessible and appropriate support for (expectant) parents. We are investigating where financial barriers stand in the way of families and how these can be removed. In doing so, we are paying particular attention to the shortages in maternity care and cooperation with all parties involved with parents and children.

## 2.2. Education and housing

D66 sees education as the backbone of opportunity and the engine of progress. We focus our policy not only on schools, but on everything around them: good housing, peace and quiet in the neighbourhood, and support for children and their parents, so that they can develop their interests and talents.

Schools and childcare facilities are more than just buildings. They are places where children grow up, parents meet and neighbourhoods come together. In Maastricht, we see that schools in some neighbourhoods are the beating heart of the community. D66 chooses to consciously strengthen that role. This requires clear choices in how we build, invest and collaborate with education and childcare partners.

D66 invests in healthy, sustainable, and future-proof school buildings that enable collaboration between education and childcare, professionals, and parents. In doing so, we look not only at the bricks and mortar, but also at what a building can do for the development of children and the cohesion of the neighbourhood.

43. Learning about Maastricht's future. **D66 is committed to structural exchange between schools in primary and secondary education and local entrepreneurs and organisations, Brightlands and the Einstein Telescope.** We connect schools to businesses, healthcare institutions, and research projects related to the Einstein Telescope through guest lectures, practical assignments, and short internships. In this way, we make science, technology, and entrepreneurship visible and accessible, and we let children and young people experience that learning in Maastricht also leads to working and staying in Maastricht.
44. Talent development should not depend on your parents' wallet. **D66 wants to make the enriched school day with extra sports, culture and activities for talent development a standard in Maastricht.** This means that by 2028 at the latest, we will realise extra offerings at all schools (primary, secondary and special education) that want this. Schools will work together with sports clubs, cultural institutions and the library on a structural basis so that children can discover and develop their talents. We are also investigating whether it is possible to add swimming to the rich daily programme in the long term, whereby a contribution from parents is not taboo.

46. **We are investigating whether healthy snacks, breakfast or lunch can be offered at more schools in Maastricht.** We are first looking at cooperation with parents and in the neighbourhood, and where that is not possible and the national school meals programme does not provide for it, we are investigating how we as a municipality can support this, for example by facilitating a kitchen or other facilities.

## Schools & surroundings

Schools are for learning and living. Mental health, pressure to perform and stress, the situation or relationship of parents, citizenship, safety, bullying or riots in the neighbourhood: these are all social issues that schools have to deal with every day. The municipality often has a role to play here, whether out of concern or for other reasons. D66 wants the municipality to actively strengthen cooperation with professionals in and around schools and to relieve or support school teams in this regard wherever possible.

46. **D66 wants to further develop schools and childcare centres into anchors in the neighbourhood,** where education, childcare, youth, sports and culture come together and professionals can easily find each other. By encouraging multifunctional use, school buildings also contribute to sports, culture and socialising in the neighbourhood outside school hours.
47. **D66 wants to further strengthen schools into family schools,** where parents are welcome and parenting support is close at hand. We are building on the Maastricht bridge officer and strengthening this role as a permanent link between school, family and neighbourhood.
48. Focus on teachers and lecturers. **D66 is committed to supporting and strengthening teachers, caretakers, school leaders and everyone who works in and around education.** Less bureaucracy, more professional space and support, so that they can do what they do best: teach and let talent flourish.
49. The physical environment matters. **D66 has decided that by 2030, every school in Maastricht offering primary, secondary and special education will have a green and exercise-friendly schoolyard and, where possible, will be connected to an exercise trail through the neighbourhood.** In this way, we are linking education, health and the living environment in a concrete and visible way.
50. Learning does not stop with a diploma. **D66 is committed to a city where further education and retraining are the norm.** Together with educational institutions and employers, we are making it easier for people to continue developing throughout their lives, especially in sectors where pressure is high, such as healthcare and education.

## 2.3. Students

Students keep Maastricht lively. They work in the hospitality industry and home care, do internships at local companies and bring excitement to the city. Thanks to students, cafés stay open, care teams keep running and neighbourhoods stay vibrant. This coexistence does not happen automatically: housing, space and quality of life require good agreements. But for D66, the starting point is clear: we do not pit students and the city against each other. We need each other. Students are indispensable for the future of Maastricht, and our city is indispensable for their education.



51. **D66 wants students to have a structural voice in the policies that affect them.** We are therefore continuing the collaboration we initiated with the student councils of Maastricht University, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences and VISTA College, and actively involving students in finding solutions. We will continue to visit other student cities together to learn from good examples.
52. **D66 wants to expand the Student City programme with a targeted 'from student to job' programme and a focus on integration.** In doing so, we are taking targeted measures to bind students to Maastricht and promote their integration into the city. Good steps are already being taken in this direction, for example at the Inkom. We are expanding this through long-term free Dutch language lessons, explanations and experiences of Maastricht culture, traditions and customs, and internships within civil society.
53. **D66 wants Maastricht, just like other student cities, to employ student civil servants** who can help us build bridges between the city council and student life.
54. Living together also means taking responsibility for each other and for the city. D66 will continue to actively involve student associations in policy-making. However, anyone who crosses the line and jeopardises safety, quality of life or equality will be dealt with. **D66 wants the municipality, in consultation with Maastricht University and Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, to take consistent action against excesses and undesirable or unsafe behaviour.**
55. **D66 wants to increase the number of quiet study areas,** in collaboration with educational institutions, libraries and community centres.
56. **D66 wants more attention for vocational education and equal treatment for all students.** That is why we are ensuring that vocational, higher professional and university students are treated equally in areas where this is not yet the case, for example when taking out a sports membership.
57. **D66 wants to invest more in cooperation with MBO,** make the Richting Zuid traineeship at the municipality accessible to MBO students and set up targeted learning environments where practice and education reinforce each other, for example in the areas of energy transition, healthcare and entrepreneurship, hospitality or retail.

## 2.4. The healthiest generation ever

Growing up healthy means more than just not being ill. It is also about mental resilience, belonging and not feeling alone. Maastricht has already achieved a great deal with its targeted focus on exercise, healthy nutrition and a healthy living environment. D66 has decided to build on this and strengthen this approach.

We are making prevention and health a permanent pillar of municipal policy and explicitly linking this to education, youth and the pedagogical basis. D66 wants education, sport and culture to form the backbone of healthy growing up in the neighbourhood.

Exercise, socialising and participation should be a natural part of children's daily lives. That is why we are strengthening cooperation between schools, childcare centres, sports clubs and cultural institutions. This creates strong networks around children and young people, close to home.





58. The environment around schools and childcare facilities plays a crucial role in this. **D66 is committed to investing in safe routes, green schoolyards and accessible sports and play areas**, so that exercise and socialising become a natural part of the day.
59. Mental health deserves structural attention, commitment and budget. **D66 wants to focus more on tackling loneliness and reducing mental vulnerability** by bringing education, youth work, sports and culture together to promote socialising, self-confidence and exchange. We are committed to proven effective interventions, such as Join Us.
60. Finally, where possible, **D66 opts for a cross-domain approach**, thereby ensuring coherence and effectiveness. Fewer isolated health projects and more integrated programmes contribute to health and connectedness in the neighbourhood. Different funding streams often lead to compartmentalisation, but these are not our priority; barrier-free transition and clarity for users are paramount. It is precisely by working together, from practice support staff to health clinics, GPs to informal care centres, childcare and district nurses, that we can effectively contribute to health and cohesion in the neighbourhood. In this way, we are building, step by step, the healthiest generation Maastricht has ever known.

## 2.5. The social basis and care

D66 believes in strong communities and in people's own power to shape their lives and environment together. In Maastricht, we see every day that resilience arises in community centres, associations, schools and residents' initiatives, often before problems become a cause for concern. D66 is fully committed to prevention, because it pays off, and chooses to focus on that social foundation and invest in the networks, meeting places and accessible support that ensure that residents know each other, participate and are there for each other. That requires space and trust.

61. D66 opts for a government that stands alongside people, that invests in places and moments of encounter and deploys professionals where they reinforce rather than take over. Continuity and trust are essential in this regard, so that initiatives do not have to start over again and again. **As far as D66 is concerned, volunteering and space for residents' own initiatives are indispensable for our city and must be facilitated by the municipality in a better and more structural way with resources, advice and facilities.** As with entrepreneurs, a single point of contact is essential for these initiatives.
62. Participation is not separate from the social domain. **D66 opts for more coherence and clarity in support, according to the principle of one family, one plan, one director.** This means fewer counters, fewer conflicting rules and a single clear point of contact for residents. In this way, support is better aligned with what families and individuals really need, and professionals are given the space to work together.
63. It is precisely through meeting and participating that problems can be identified at an early stage. **D66 wants participation, welfare, education and care to be more closely linked, so that loneliness, overload or debt do not only become visible once they have already escalated.** The social basis is not an afterthought, but the first line of defence. That is why we invest in accessible facilities. Professionals are visibly present in the neighbourhood and are given the mandate to act. Residents have a single point of contact. Problems are tackled where they arise, without being passed between different departments.

64. Loneliness is affecting more and more people in Maastricht, young and old. **D66 has chosen to tackle loneliness actively and structurally, with proven effective interventions such as Join Us and Eén tegen Eenzaamheid (One Against Loneliness).** Social interaction in neighbourhoods is strengthened through schools, sports clubs, cultural initiatives and community facilities. Not on an ad hoc basis, but as an integral part of policy.
65. **D66 wants everyone to be able to participate in sports and culture.** That is why we are investigating whether Maastricht Sport can provide even more support in response to requests for assistance and where we can use various funds from youth or poverty policy in a smarter and simpler way to increase participation among those who cannot afford it themselves.
66. **D66 wants to focus strongly on early detection and timely support, together with schools, childcare, youth work, neighbourhood teams and care and welfare organisations.** By addressing problems early and locally, youth care remains the final piece of the puzzle. This is better for children and families and necessary for a sustainable system.
67. In youth care, the interests of children and families always come first. **D66 chooses to safeguard the continuity of crucial youth care when it comes under pressure.** At the same time, we recognise that structural problems in youth care are a national systemic issue. D66 wants Maastricht to join forces with other central cities to lobby the national government to enforce that responsibility and provide the necessary funding.
68. As a central city, Maastricht takes responsibility in South Limburg, but not alone. **D66 wants clear regional agreements on tasks, costs and risks, with timely and complete information for the municipal council,** so that we can take action before problems escalate. We are focusing on quality, stability and a future-proof care landscape and are working on youth care that is not in a constant state of crisis, but works from a long-term vision based on what works.
69. **D66 wants Maastricht to become a dementia-friendly city,** where people with dementia can continue to participate safely and with dignity for as long as possible. This requires accessible care and facilities, well-trained professionals and support for informal carers, as well as neighbourhoods and public spaces that are safe, recognisable and easy to navigate. In this way, we connect care, welfare and the design of the city.

## Informal care

Informal carers are indispensable to Maastricht. D66 wants to make informal care more sustainable by organising support in a simpler, earlier and more personalised way.

70. **D66 wants informal carers to be identified earlier through Wmo** (Social Support Act) interviews, GPs, schools and employers, with extra attention for young informal carers. In this way, we can prevent overload before things go wrong. We also want informal carers to have a single point of contact and appropriate support.
71. D66 opts for permanent informal care consultants as a recognisable point of contact for simple and accessible respite care, so that temporary relief is available when needed. **D66 also wants to remove practical barriers to informal care,** for example through appropriate parking and public transport solutions. As an informal care-friendly employer, the municipality of Maastricht sets a good example and encourages other employers to do the same.



72. **D66 wants to look at how we can make oral care accessible to all Maastricht residents**, because this is crucial for your long-term health. That is why we are advocating nationally for the inclusion of oral care in the basic health insurance package and are looking locally to see if we can play a role in this in the context of, for example, poverty or youth policy, as with our tooth fairy motion.
73. Safety is a basic prerequisite for participation. **D66 wants victims of domestic violence to be able to count on safe, sustainable shelters**. Emergency solutions should never compromise safety or well-being. Maastricht is working together with care organisations and housing associations on this and is acting in line with the Istanbul Convention.

## 2.6. Livelihood security

Livelihood security is the basis for freedom and progress. D66 wants work to always pay off. Residents must understand what working extra hours or advancing their career means for their disposable income, so that they do not get stuck in poverty traps or uncertainty.

74. The current poverty policy is too complicated. **D66 wants to make income support simpler, more understandable and, where possible, automatic**. Fewer regulations, fewer counters and more focus on actual disposable income. This ensures that support goes to those who need it, without people getting bogged down in forms or being afraid of doing something wrong. We look at actual disposable income, so that support goes to those who need it. This people-oriented approach also means that the municipality will be less quick to reclaim or terminate benefits when enforcing and monitoring the Participation Act (and the obligation to provide information) and other municipal benefits.
75. **D66 wants participation to be possible for people who fall just outside the regulations**. That is why we are investigating whether it is possible to introduce a pilot scheme with a Personal Living Budget. Less fragmented regulations, more freedom and trust. After one year, we will evaluate its use, affordability and feasibility to determine whether it will be introduced on a structural basis.
76. Housing and energy costs are a heavy burden on households. **D66 wants to invest specifically in insulation and energy saving in order to reduce fixed costs on a structural basis**.
77. Debt causes stress and undermines health and prospects. **D66 opts for a people-oriented approach to debt, based on trust, personal strength and future prospects**. Debt assistance is accessible, personalised and focused on early detection, guidance and good aftercare.
78. Self-employed people and small business owners can also get into trouble. **D66 wants debt assistance and support to be accessible to self-employed people and SMEs**, with tailor-made solutions that take into account fluctuating incomes and entrepreneurial risks.
79. Shame should never be a barrier. **D66 wants to make financial problems discussable**, with understandable communication and safe access to help. At the same time, we invest in prevention, such as financial coaching and early detection of payment arrears.

80. We explicitly link livelihood security to education and youth. **D66 chooses to recognise and address financial stress in families at an early stage**, to prevent problems from accumulating and opportunities from being lost. In doing so, we explicitly make the connection with the liaison officers at school and other professionals in and around the child and families, or in the neighbourhood.
81. Participation starts with what people can do. **D66 wants the municipality, together with partners, to focus on tailor-made solutions and development to prevent dropouts**, from early school leaving to long-term unemployment. Through guidance, work-study programmes and timely support, we prevent people from falling out of sight and remaining on the sidelines.
82. Reintegration and participation with a human touch. **D66 wants the municipality to maintain control over participation and reintegration**, focusing on development and preventing dropouts. MTB fits in with this approach as a social work facility where people who do not automatically enter the labour market are given prospects for work and participation according to their abilities and, if the organisation itself so wishes, a new, positive positioning and name, as far as D66 is concerned.
83. Basic skills as a prerequisite for participation. **D66 prioritises tackling low literacy and limited digital skills** and is expanding this approach to more accessible locations in the city, such as neighbourhood and community centres, in addition to the family approach.

## 2.7. Asylum and migration

Asylum and migration require fairness and responsibility. For D66, this is not a debate about numbers or sentiments, but about people and solutions that work. Those who rightly seek protection deserve safety, clarity and prospects, not years of uncertainty in shelters with no prospects. At the same time, this requires municipalities to take their role seriously, within the law and in close consultation with partners. Where nuisance arises, it must be addressed. Not by dismissing people or denying problems, but through concrete measures, clear agreements and enforcement where necessary. That is why D66 opts for policies that facilitate movement, maintain humane reception and protect the quality of life in neighbourhoods. Not by looking away or delaying, but by taking responsibility and doing what is necessary.

84. **D66 believes that Maastricht should take its responsibility in the reception of asylum seekers and status holders.** We will maintain the current reception locations and, in close consultation with the COA, continue to ensure sufficient places, in accordance with our legal obligations. Priority will continue to be given to the most vulnerable target groups, such as single women and status holders.
85. D66 wants reception to focus on recovery and prospects, not on long-term stays with no prospects. Staying in reception for a long time is undesirable, especially for children. **D66 opts for rapid transition to independent housing by making clear agreements with housing associations.** This allows status holders to find stability more quickly and keeps reception places available for those who need them most.
86. **D66 wants those who come to Maastricht to participate as quickly as possible and start working or training.** This gives them prospects, increases their self-esteem and ensures a smooth transition into the city and society. D66 therefore took the initiative for the Maastricht pilot project 'asylum seekers into work faster'. The evaluation shows that this approach works: more than sixty people have started paid work, employers are satisfied, and participants are integrating more quickly. D66 remains committed to supporting status holders in entering the labour market or education, and wants to continue and expand this pilot programme so that participation from day one becomes the norm in Maastricht.



## Chapter 3

# Green, growth, and movement

# Green, growth, and movement

Maastricht is growing, becoming denser and changing. This requires clear choices in how we use our scarce space. D66 opts for a city that is healthy, green and accessible, where exercise becomes second nature and where public spaces invite people to meet. Investing in greenery, mobility and exercise is not a luxury, but a prerequisite for health, quality of life and broad prosperity.

## 3.1. Energy and climate

Energy is not an abstract goal, but a prerequisite for living, working and moving around in Maastricht. The power grid is full, space is scarce and demand is growing. D66 has chosen not to wait, but to take active control. That means making choices, solving bottlenecks and accelerating smart solutions.

87. **D66 opts for an active leadership role for the municipality.** Not just encouraging, but steering where necessary. Energy infrastructure is just as essential as roads and schools and is included from the outset in spatial plans, area developments and economic choices. Projects will only go ahead if the energy supply is in order. Where necessary, the municipality participates in energy projects, drives them forward and brings parties together. Don't wait, but do what is necessary to move forward.
88. **D66 prioritises solving grid congestion.** The full power grid should not continue to be a brake on living and working. We are accelerating grid reinforcement and immediately incorporating smart solutions, together with grid operators, the province and the national government. We plan energy infrastructure in advance, not after the fact.
89. **D66 opts for area-specific solutions.** We encourage and organise joint approaches in business parks and campuses: sharing energy, exchanging heat and investing jointly in generation and storage. Through park management, energy hubs and local networks, we make business parks less dependent on the overloaded grid. Where cooperation makes sense, the municipality organises it.
90. **D66 wants to accelerate smart storage and local grids.** Neighbourhood batteries, smart grids and local storage are actively used in residential complexes, business parks and public facilities. In this way, we make better use of locally generated energy and smooth out peaks in the grid.
91. **D66 prioritises local generation in logical locations.** Solar panels on the roofs of businesses, schools, sports halls and car parks are given priority. We actively use municipal real estate for generation and storage. This keeps the revenue local and increases the resilience of the energy system.
92. **D66 wants to create a testing ground for smart energy systems around Randwyck, Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus and the academic ecosystem.** Whatever works here will be immediately applied in neighbourhoods and business parks.
93. A healthy, sustainable and future-proof economy requires investment from all of us. However, the preconditions for this must be in place. Only when the grid has been upgraded, more sustainable charging points have been installed and materials are widely available **will D66 implement the Zero Emission Zone (ZES) more broadly.** The exemptions granted and the grounds for exemption will remain in force.



## 3.2. Mobility

D66 opts for a city in which different forms of mobility reinforce each other. Maastricht should be a city where you can walk comfortably, cycle safely, travel reliably by public transport and where cars have a place without dominating the city. For D66, mobility is not just about speed, but about safety, health, accessibility and quality of space. This requires clear choices. Not everything is possible everywhere, but every street must be logically designed for what is appropriate there.

94. **D66 chooses the bicycle as the norm for travel within Maastricht.** We are creating separate cycle paths on busy routes such as Peter Huysenslaan, Maasboulevard, Porseleinstraat and Malbergsingel. Where this is not possible, we will design streets as bicycle streets, including on Lage Kanaaldijk, Mergelweg, Bloemenweg and on the service roads of Wilhelminasingel, Prins Bisschopsingel, Meerssenerweg and Akersteenweg. D66 advocates an active, clear and well-functioning bicycle parking policy.
95. **D66 wants a single, clear speed policy:** 70 km/h on the Noorderbrug, 50 km/h on the Kennedybrug, ring roads and neighbourhood access roads, and 30 km/h as standard in residential streets. On bus routes without cycle paths in Daalhof-Noord, Heugem and Heer, we will reduce the speed limit from 50 to 30 km/h. On roads that are more through roads and where 30 km/h has recently been introduced as the maximum speed, such as the Meerssenerweg, we will increase visibility by adjusting road markings.
96. **D66 is investing in a coherent cycle route network.** The Maasroute between Kennedybrug and Servaasbrug will have a wide two-way cycle path through the Stadspark. The Groene Loper will be extended to Randwyck via an exclusive slow traffic route between Bloemenweg and Gaetano Martinolaan.
97. **D66 wants neighbourhoods to be better connected to the city centre and stations.** We are improving cycle routes from De Heeg via Maastrichterweg, from Amby through Geusseltpark and from Belfort and Daalhof via the Blauwe Loper. Wyck station will be more accessible via Botermijn and a traffic-calmed Wilhelminasingel, with smoother crossings towards Stationsstraat and Sint-Servaasbrug.
98. **D66 opts for reliable and cross-border public transport to complement walking and cycling.** Bus routes will remain easily accessible and safe. Transfers between bicycle, bus and train will be logically organised, with sufficient bicycle parking spaces at stations and stops. We are working on a vision for the future of public transport in our city, so that there will be clarity about bus connections in our city for four years, instead of incidental changes that have rightly led to dissatisfaction.
99. **D66 wants to work with the province** as the concession grantor on new initiatives to keep public transport accessible, affordable and available, even if this costs us extra money as a municipality.
100. **D66 controls car traffic and does not allow it to dominate.** We opt for a car-free city centre and a new traffic circulation plan for Wyck and the (spacious) city centre, inspired by Ghent. Through traffic, such as on the Wilhelminasingel, will be made impossible. Local traffic will remain possible.



101. **D66 guarantees priority for cyclists and pedestrians in all decisions.** All spatial plans and infrastructure projects are assessed as standard for pedestrian quality, bicycle-friendliness and traffic safety. We will maintain free secure bicycle parking facilities, quickly realise the parking facility at Mosae Forum and install additional bicycle lockers in neighbourhoods. New bicycle connections, such as at Borgharen and across the Afvoerkanaal towards Boschpoort, will always have full connections. And we will always pay attention to accessibility for people with disabilities and safety for everyone, even at night.
102. Enforcement should lead to better behaviour, not disproportionate burdens. **D66 therefore chooses to reduce the costs of collecting incorrectly parked bicycles at the bicycle depot.** A fine of 50 euros is currently too far removed from the value of many bicycles and is counterproductive. We are restoring the balance between costs and effectiveness, so that cycling remains attractive.
103. Maastricht is a city of bridges. **D66 is only open to modifying or relocating the Bassinbrug if there is a fully-fledged alternative.** This means that walking and cycling must be facilitated at least as well, safely and directly, and the connection between the city centre and the Sphinxkwartier must not deteriorate. The railway bridge may play a role in cross-border transport in the future, but at the same time it is important in the context of flood safety. D66 wants to work with partners on the other side of the border, the province and the national government to investigate the best options for the railway bridge. If the railway bridge has to be demolished for flood safety reasons, D66 believes that there must at least be a good alternative that strengthens cross-border transport.
104. **D66 is committed to proper and future-oriented maintenance of the locks in Maastricht as part of a safe, liveable and climate-proof city.** With increasing extremes in weather and water levels, this requires forward thinking and responsibility. The municipality is making clear agreements with other authorities, ensuring timely investments and preventing necessary maintenance from being postponed. In this way, we are protecting the city and its banks, now and in the long term.

### 3.3. Green, growth, and movement

The layout of our city determines how healthy, safe and pleasant daily life is. D66 chooses to make greenery, health and the quality of public space leading factors in how Maastricht grows. Not as an afterthought, but as a starting point for every spatial decision.

105. The Environmental Vision as a compass for choices. **D66 wants the Environmental Vision to become the coherent framework for housing, mobility, economy, greenery, heritage and quality of life.** Not as a paper document, but as a guiding instrument that helps to make clear choices, weigh up interests and involve residents in spatial developments at an early stage.
106. A clear vision for Maastricht's future towards 2040. **D66 wants Maastricht to develop a long-term vision of what the city could look like in 2040,** elaborated in several realistic scenarios. In this way, we can clarify which choices lead to which city, and give residents and the council real control over the future of Maastricht.



107. **D66 wants to make health a standard consideration in all spatial plans and use every redevelopment to make the city greener and cooler.** In new residential areas, street redesigns and major maintenance projects, we always look at movement, air quality, shade and quality of life, and we build in a nature-inclusive way wherever possible. The healthy choice must become self-evident: walking, cycling, playing and being outdoors are given priority. Every street that opens up is an opportunity. Less paving where possible, more trees, better water collection and more shade. Greenery and cooling become a standard part of maintenance and redevelopment, not an afterthought.
108. **D66 prioritises greening where the need is greatest.** We map heat stress and paving per neighbourhood and invest specifically in neighbourhoods where there is a lot of stone and vulnerable residents, such as the elderly, young children and people with fragile health. Not every neighbourhood gets the same, but every neighbourhood gets what it needs to remain cool, healthy and liveable.
109. **D66 wants faster, visible results with greenery that works immediately.** Where structural greening takes time, we will implement temporary and smart solutions: extra trees, shaded areas, green facades, water-permeable materials and seating areas in the shade. We will roll out what works in pilot projects at an accelerated pace.
110. **D66 wants a Maastricht greening fund to accelerate greening in the neighbourhood.** Greening does not have to wait for large projects or come solely from the municipality. We want people to be able to work together to make their street or neighbourhood greener. With an accessible greening fund and support from the CNME, we give residents, owners' associations, schools and neighbourhood initiatives the space to get started with greenery in their street, square, façade or courtyard garden. The council provides support in the form of knowledge, materials and co-financing, but leaves the initiative and ownership to the neighbourhood.
111. **D66 wants to put ENCI back on the map.** Together with the province, the national government and the current owner, we are preserving the industrial heritage and working to create an attractive place for recreation, study and work. We are ensuring good connections between ENCI and the city centre.

## 3.4. Exercise and sport

Maastricht should be a city where healthy living is a matter of course, not because it has to be, but because the city invites it. D66 wants to invest in parks, squares and streets that invite young and old to stay and be active, with space to play, exercise and meet each other. We are positioning Maastricht as a sports city, have ambitions to bring major sporting events to our region and, above all, want to inspire people to get active themselves.

D66 combines greenery, play, exercise and socialising into a single coherent approach. Green school environments, play and exercise areas, informal sports locations and pleasant places to stay form the basis of this approach. Exercise and recreation are taken into account as standard when redesigning streets, squares and parks.





112. **D66 wants more accessible and safe water areas in the city.** Water offers cooling in hot weather and is attractive for playing and spending time. We are developing water play areas that are safe for children, well integrated into parks and squares, and attractive for all ages. Water thus becomes an active part of a healthy and climate-proof city.
113. **D66 opts for 'exercise ribbons' through neighbourhoods where walking, cycling, playing and spending time come together.** These ribbons connect schools, sports fields, parks and neighbourhoods via safe and green routes, with benches, shade, water points and space to hang out. We are improving the safety and accessibility of (fast) cycle connections and footpaths, making daily exercise easy and visible, especially in neighbourhoods where this is not a given.
114. **D66 wants more, better lit, safer and more recognisable running and walking routes through the city.** Along the Meuse, the Groene Loper, the Stadspark and through neighbourhood parks, we are creating fixed routes with clear signage, recognisable distances and good lighting. This makes exercising in public spaces accessible, safe and attractive, even in the evenings.
115. MVV should have a future-proof stadium in a location that suits the city. **For D66, redevelopment of the Mondri site is a serious and logical option, provided that it is spatially, traffic-wise and socially feasible.** The municipality is actively cooperating in this, but is not taking on any disproportionate risk. Maastricht is creating clear spatial frameworks, speeding up procedures where possible, contributing ideas on integration and accessibility, and investing where public goals are served and financial risks are manageable. The primary responsibility for operation and realisation lies with MVV itself.
116. **D66 is investing specifically in sports meeting places in the city.** We are expanding sports and exercise facilities in places where many young people gather and where there is room for informal sports. We are also looking for cross-links between top-level sport and grassroots sport and, for example, sport and education, for example when we look at developments surrounding MVV.
117. **D66 wants to further develop De Griend into a sports hotspot,** including a pump track and space for urban sports. We will also continue to focus on BMX clinics and similar initiatives that literally get children moving and increase the enjoyment of sport.
118. **D66 wants to strengthen sports clubs and not place unnecessary burdens on volunteers.** Clubs are places for meeting, education and connection. We support them in becoming more sustainable, accessible and sharing facilities with schools and neighbourhoods. Less bureaucracy, more space to do what clubs do best.
119. **D66 chooses Maastricht as a visible sports city.** We make room for major sporting events and strengthen our position as a cycling city. In addition to the Amstel Gold Race, D66 wants Maastricht to host a major cycling or other top sporting event at least once every two years. This brings pride, energy, economic spin-off and inspiration to get moving yourself.



## Chapter 4

# Building the city together

# Building the city together

In Maastricht, we live together. And where we don't yet, the municipality should help bridge the gap between groups, associations, and people. Together we are stronger than alone. And it's precisely in our diversity and inclusiveness that Maastricht's strength lies.

## 4.1. Neighbourhoods & Security

A strong neighbourhood does not start with policy, but with people. With the neighbour who keeps a spare key, the volunteer who opens the community centre, the trainer on the field, the parent in the canteen or the person checking for head lice at school. All that daily, often silent work keeps Maastricht together.

D66 opts for neighbourhoods where people know each other and feel at home. Where young and old meet, where help is close by and where everyone can participate. This does not require more rules, but trust, space and presence. And a municipality that does not stand above organisations but among the people in the neighbourhood.

D66 stands for a safe city where people can move freely and feel at home in their own neighbourhood. Safety requires visibility where necessary, prevention where possible and cooperation where necessary.

120. **D66 wants people in the neighbourhood to be able to work together** and therefore advocates a neighbourhood fund, in which residents, entrepreneurs and social initiatives can jointly submit and implement a plan for their neighbourhood. The municipality will stop fragmented subsidies and opt for trust: anyone who makes a plan together and wants to implement it to improve the quality of life, safety and attractiveness can apply to this neighbourhood fund.
121. **D66 invests specifically in places where people can meet.** Squares, community centres, parks and neighbourhood facilities are given priority, so that young and old can meet and communities can grow. What works in these neighbourhoods, we will gradually expand to other neighbourhoods in Maastricht.
122. People make the neighbourhood. **D66 wants to actively support and value neighbourhood networks by simplifying rules, bundling fragmented subsidies and leaving as much initiative as possible to the neighbourhood.** We value this neighbourhood building with an annual neighbourhood award for initiatives that show how joint efforts make the neighbourhood stronger.
123. Participation must be possible for everyone. **D66 wants people with disabilities to be able to participate fully in education, work, sports, culture and volunteer work.** We are removing physical and social barriers and actively implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Inclusion and accessibility are the starting points for all neighbourhood investments.
124. **D66 is committed to a comprehensive network of public toilets, spread throughout the city and easily accessible to everyone.** As the initiator of this topic, D66 continues to insist on implementation and expansion, so that Maastricht is a city where everyone can move, stay and participate freely.
125. A safe, inclusive and accessible nightlife in Maastricht. **D66 is continuing to pursue its Night Vision policy: safe nightlife, clear agreements, inclusivity and good night-time public transport connections, in balance with quality of life for residents.**



126. **D66 opts for a visible and approachable presence of law enforcement and police in areas where residents experience structural nuisance and insecurity.** Targeted, recognisable and in close connection with the neighbourhood.
127. **D66 focuses on prevention through behaviour:** early detection, guidance and support to prevent problems from escalating. We invest in youth work, education and social networks in neighbourhoods where the pressure is greatest, so that perspective outweighs repression.
128. Safe and liveable public spaces through design and management. **D66 is committed to public spaces that invite normal use:** well lit, clearly laid out and well maintained. Safety starts with streets and squares that belong to everyone and where social control arises naturally.
129. **D66 wants women to be safe on the streets of Maastricht.** We are investing specifically in better lighting, clear layout of streets and squares, safe walking and cycling routes and visible enforcement. Together with women's organisations, young people and residents, we are identifying unsafe areas and tackling them in a targeted manner, so that the city belongs to everyone, even in the evening and at night.
130. **D66 wants to invest extra in neighbourhoods where safety is under pressure,** with a targeted approach together with the police, welfare services and residents. Because crime does not stop at the municipal border, we actively collaborate with partners across the border so that subversion and organised crime can be tackled more effectively and neighbourhoods can become safer again. A single integrated approach to nuisance and complex issues. D66 opts for a coherent approach in which care, safety, education and enforcement work together. People with confused or transgressive behaviour receive appropriate support, with clear boundaries where the safety of the environment is at stake.
131. **D66 opts for focus. We invest long-term and coherently in neighbourhoods where the pressure on quality of life and opportunities is greatest.** Pottenberg and Nazareth are therefore given priority in terms of time, capacity and attention. This commitment spans several council terms and is not reinvented each time.
132. **We are building strong neighbourhood-oriented alliances, with clear agreements on responsibility, goals and visible results,** and partners such as housing associations Woonpunt, Servatius, Maasvallei, Wonen Limburg, welfare organisation Trajekt, and healthcare and mental healthcare partners Envida and Mondriaan.
133. **D66 believes that every neighbourhood or district should have a clear point of contact who can intervene on behalf of the municipality in the event of complaints** about litter, abandoned bicycles or graffiti in public spaces.

## 4.2. Culture, heritage, and associations

D66 considers culture to be a public value and a driving force behind a vibrant city. Culture is not a side issue, but determines how Maastricht feels, develops and connects. That is why D66 invests boldly and continuously in culture, from amateur art to top institutions.



134. **D66 opts for a single, coherent cultural ecosystem.** We encourage collaboration between creators, institutions and educational programmes in programming, talent development and the sharing of facilities. In this way, organisations strengthen each other and creators are given the space to grow in Maastricht, rather than leaving. The municipality takes an active role as a partner in this. D66 opts for a municipality that facilitates, connects and contributes ideas, with clear points of contact and better internal coordination. Good ideas should not be stifled by procedures, but should be allowed to grow.
135. Talent must be able to stay and take root in the city. With the Theatre Academy, the Conservatory and the Jan van Eyck Academy, Maastricht has a unique cultural position. **D66 wants to connect these programmes more strongly with the city, so that young creators can live, work and do business here.**
136. **D66 stands for strong venues for the city.** We are in favour of the Bonbonnière as an open house for culture and debate and see potential in this shared space, room for experimentation and collaboration, and the connection with Maastricht University. We want Theater aan het Vrijthof to be made future-proof, with investments at the right time and increasing independence. This also means that we only want to invest in the Middenzaal once there is a well-founded business case demonstrating that there is a need and a future for this venue in relation to other venues.
137. **As far as D66 is concerned, the Muziekgieterij remains the beating heart of Maastricht's pop culture** and will be given stability to invest in talent development, rehearsal spaces and a broad programme for amateur and professional creators.
138. **D66 is committed to actively implementing and directing the Church Vision, whereby vacant churches in Maastricht will be purposefully redeveloped for housing, care, culture and education.** We will not allow buildings with character to stand empty or fall into disrepair, but will make them part of the solution to the housing shortage and liveable neighbourhoods. The municipality will take the lead, speed up procedures and work together with the neighbourhood, owners and initiators to turn former churches back into places of significance.
139. Strong regional media are indispensable. **D66 supports the development of a robust regional broadcaster and, together with other municipalities, provides a stable basis for independent journalism.** Politics creates the preconditions, but never interferes with the content.
140. Culture must be accessible. **D66 supports an accessible and up-to-date events calendar, both physical and online, which brings together the full range of cultural offerings and also showcases the Euregio.**
141. The Maastricht dialect does not belong in a museum but is part of the city's future. This means that we not only want to preserve and cherish the language, but above all pass it on. **D66 cherishes the Maastricht dialect and wants to invest in passing it on to the next generation with new forms, content and resources, for use at home, online, in the classroom and in childcare.**

## 4.3. The freedom to be and express yourself

Being free and daring to be yourself is not about flags, labels or symbols. It is about whether you can hold hands in the street without looking over your shoulder. Whether you can be yourself at school, at work and in healthcare, without fear of exclusion, intimidation or violence. In the coming years, D66 will therefore focus on targeted measures that make our city safer and more pleasant for the LGBTIQ+ community, not in words, but in what people experience on a daily basis.

142. Not about but with: **D66 chooses to work together with the community.** Together with COC Limburg, among others, we are implementing the rainbow election agreement. We are translating our 10-point plan 'Being able to be yourself' into concrete measures for neighbourhoods, schools, healthcare and sports.
143. **D66 wants Maastricht to actively pursue a rainbow policy.** Acceptance of LGBTIQ+ people is under pressure. We will not let that happen. The municipality is taking the lead with a clear coordinator, a structural budget and measurable annual targets, so that inclusion is not an afterthought but an integral part of policy.
144. **D66 wants safety on the streets and at night.** In addressing street harassment and the Night Vision policy, inclusivity is given explicit attention. We do not accept antisocial, discriminatory and intimidating behaviour towards LGBTIQ+ people, women and others, and we will tackle it, because everyone should be able to move freely and safely through the city.
145. **D66 wants to learn from and collaborate with other cities.** We will adopt proven approaches from other rainbow municipalities and translate them to Maastricht, so that good ideas are quickly implemented and deliver results.
146. **Finally, D66 wants the municipality to be recognisable as an ally.** Maastricht shows what it stands for: we raise the rainbow flag on Coming Out Day, but above all we provide inclusive services and concrete plans that make and keep Maastricht the most beautiful city in the Netherlands for the LGBTIQ+ community as well.



## Chapter 5

# Governance: steering and cooperation

# Governance: steering and cooperation

A strong democracy requires an open administrative culture and a clear division of roles. D66 wants a government that is approachable, takes responsibility and dares to make choices. That means no endless explorations or pilots without decisions, but clear choices, with room for adjustment later on. The government and organisation are transparent about what is and is not possible, and actively report on this to the municipal council and residents.

The municipal council determines the course. D66 stands for a council that sets the broad outlines, establishes clear frameworks and monitors the executive committee for results. Political choices are made and explained in the council and are as transparent as possible. The council governs within those frameworks, implements policy, makes decisions and is accountable for the choices made. Clarity and predictability are essential in this regard.

The civil service organisation works in a solution-oriented manner and serves the city. Civil servants are given the space to contribute ideas within the rules and actively seek out what is possible. The municipality is a partner of the city and, at the same time, is being given more and more tasks. D66 appreciates the dedication and professionalism of civil servants. At the same time, things do not always go smoothly. We want the municipality to be a learning and safe organisation and to continue to invest in civil service professionalism, especially at a time when a lot is being asked of people in public service. Mistakes can be acknowledged and evaluations lead to improvements in policy and implementation.

Together, the council, the executive committee and the organisation form a single government that is reliable and approachable, honours its agreements and is willing to learn. Based on shared responsibility, we each contribute to an increasingly strong city from our own position of responsibility.

## 5.1. Democracy

For D66, democracy is more than just voting once every four years. We want to invest in a democracy in which residents have a real influence on the choices that affect their city and in which everyone can participate, think and decide.

**147. D66 wants a broad city agreement that gives both the coalition and the opposition room to make the city stronger with their own initiatives and proposals.** The debate on the direction of this agreement should be held in the city council. We make a distinction between policy and implementation and want the city agreement to be elaborated in a limited number of policy frameworks per domain. The resulting implementation plans are evaluated annually with the city council. This creates predictability for the city, clarity about the mandate of the College and room for the council to steer policy.

148. **D66 wants the municipal council to be able to make more substantive proposals and strives for fewer external motions and more initiative proposals, as is the case in other municipalities.** This will allow councillors to use their mandate to make a real difference in terms of content and will lead to a stronger debate in the council. Urgent issues can always be put on the agenda via external motions, but broader wishes are elaborated by councillors in a memorandum so that they can be dealt with more effectively in the council.
149. **D66 is committed to new forms of democracy that make use of the knowledge, experience and creativity that exist in the city.** For major issues, we organise swarm democracy: residents, professionals, entrepreneurs and social organisations contribute their ideas for solutions from the outset. Not as an afterthought, but as part of the decision-making process.
150. **D66 wants to gradually expand participatory budgeting into a fully-fledged instrument,** in which residents not only indicate what they consider important, but also jointly weigh up what should be given less priority, because participation also means taking responsibility.
151. **D66 stands for politics in which we talk with people rather than about them,** and wants to give a voice in the council chamber to those in the city who are not yet heard or are heard less. That is why D66 wants to organise at least one G-debate for people with disabilities in the coming period, as has already happened in other municipalities. We are also committed to a pilot project for a citizens' consultation on a topic relevant to the municipal council. In doing so, we are making every effort to give young people a structural voice in decisions that affect their future and to continue the good cooperation between the municipal council and the student council.
152. **D66 wants residents, associations and cooperatives to have the right to challenge the municipality.** Through the 'right to challenge', they can take over tasks if they can perform them better, smarter or more humanely. The municipality will assess these proposals fairly, transparently and without unnecessary barriers.
153. **D66 is in favour of a public and up-to-date lobby register,** which shows which interest groups, individuals, companies and institutions are in contact with administrators and civil servants about policy and decisions. We are looking for a suitable and logical format for this, which provides insight into who has contributed to the decision-making process, but is also practical.
154. **D66 wants maximum openness to be the norm and decisions by the council to be made public in a complete, understandable and easily accessible manner.** Residents must be able to follow what choices are made and why. Transparency is not a bonus, but the basis for trust in politics.
155. **D66 wants the municipality to make every effort to get as many of its residents as possible to the polls during the municipal elections.** After all, the municipal council is more representative when it represents the votes of more residents. That is why D66 wants the municipality to launch a campaign in the weeks leading up to the elections to get all residents, including those who do not speak Dutch, to the polls and to investigate whether it is possible to use (more) mobile polling stations.

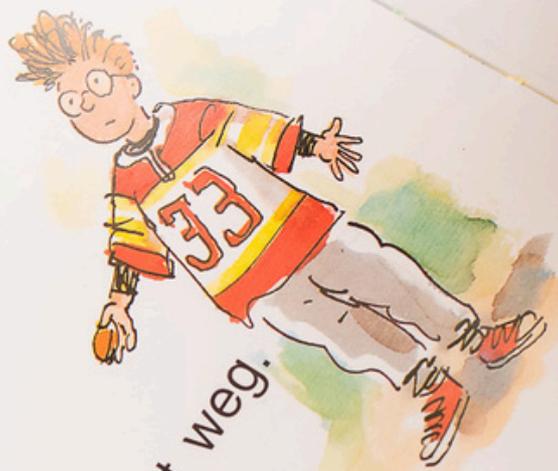
## 5.2. Service provision

D66 wants an administrative organisation that thinks along with and facilitates. Civil servants are given the space to look for solutions within the rules, instead of just checking whether something is possible. Initiatives from the city deserve a single point of contact, clear deadlines and fair consideration. In this way, the municipality becomes a partner of residents, entrepreneurs and organisations.

156. **D66 stands for clarity and progress:** residents need to know where they stand and within what timeframe they can expect a decision. In all our communications, we ensure that deadlines are reasonable and clear to those concerned.
157. Trust in the government starts with effective communication. **D66 wants a municipality that is understandable, accessible and helpful.** Services are there to help people, not to trap them in rules, forms or counters. We choose the human dimension as our starting point.
158. **D66 is committed to clear and simple language.** The municipality communicates at B1 level as standard, provides translations where necessary and, in the case of direct communication with citizens, at least provides an alternative in English. Letters, forms and decisions must be understandable without a legal explanatory note. If residents do not understand municipal mail, they may return it or put it in the language machine at the town hall, and the letter in question will be adapted for the future.
159. **D66 wants residents to always be able to get a real answer.** Digitally where possible, personally where necessary. Anyone who gets stuck can call or visit and will be helped by someone who thinks along with them and takes action. We prevent people from being sent from desk to desk and organise services around life questions, not around internal departments.
160. We must also be able to enforce the rules we make. **D66 believes that the municipality should only establish rules if compliance is realistic.** Because the number of enforcement officers is currently insufficient to properly tackle nuisance and violations, D66 is in favour of increasing the number of enforcement officers so that rules are credible and the quality of life in neighbourhoods is actually improved.
161. Digitalisation should never lead to distance or mistrust. **D66 believes that technology should reinforce public values.** The municipality only collects data that is necessary, explains how systems work and actively protects privacy. Digital systems support employees and residents, but never replace human judgement.



de mus zit op de tak.  
 daar is pim.  
 pim ziet de mus.  
 dag, mus!  
 kom maar hier!  
 hier is koek.  
 maar de mus gaat weg.  
 pim eet de koek op.  
 mmmm!



daar is kees.  
 kees zit op een paal  
 kom eraf, kees!  
 de zee komt eraan  
 maar kees wil niet  
 van de paal  
 daar is de zee al  
 spat! spat! spat!  
 wat is dat?  
 kees is n  
 kees gaat w



## 5.3. Finance

Good governance requires clear financial choices. D66 wants to invest in the future of Maastricht, especially at a time when the city is facing many challenges. In our view, investing in housing, youth, innovation and quality of life is not a luxury, but a necessity to keep Maastricht socially and economically strong.

162. At the same time, **D66 believes that investment is only possible if the fundamentals are in order.** We closely monitor the financial health of the municipality. Property tax for residents will not rise faster than inflation. If there are insufficient resources, we will make explicit choices about what is not possible. We do not promise plans without coverage.
163. Nothing comes from nothing. Where investments now strengthen Maastricht's future position, **D66 is open to new funds, preferably of a revolving nature,** such as our proposal for Brightlands Randwyck.
164. **D66 wants to increase the tourist tax so that visitors contribute fairly to the pressure that tourism puts on public space, accessibility, cleaning and quality of life.** The proceeds will be visibly used for the maintenance of the city, culture and facilities that residents also benefit from.
165. **D66's starting point is that we should not pass on bills to the future.** Reserves must be sufficient to cover the risks run by the municipality, with multi-year risks being given greater weight. The risk position of the municipality of Maastricht must not deteriorate structurally during the council term.
166. **D66 opts for a predictable financial policy.** This means that the municipal council is informed in a timely and comprehensive manner about financial developments, so that adjustments can be made before problems arise. No surprises afterwards, but clear choices beforehand.



# Colophon

This election manifesto was developed under the responsibility of the local board and written by Bert Jongen and Marlou Jenneskens, in close cooperation with D66's team of candidates: Guido Mertens, Miriam Elfassih, Thomas Gardien, Mandy op den Oordt, Mardge Pascaud, Cedric van Gerwen, Johan Pas, Fleur Berden, and Mario Sanna.

On 5 February, the manifesto was presented to the General Member Assembly of the Maastricht Heuvelland branch. Following discussion and the adoption of a number of amendments, the manifesto was approved and adopted by the members.

We thank everyone who contributed to this manifesto. The input from civil society organisations, institutions, entrepreneurs, and people from across the city challenged us and led to concrete proposals and ambitions. Together with the ideas and ambitions of our members, both during the well known post it session and through amendments, this has made the manifesto, as Armand Cremers put it, "a 10- turned into a 10+." With that, we are ready to get to work and show how it really can be done in Maastricht!

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Bert Jongen & Marlou Jenneskens

## **Design & Translation**

Thomas Gardien

## **Photography**

Jonathan Vos Photography

## **Digital publication**

Harald Barendse

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4. Gardien, T.R. (Thomas)
5. Op den Oordt, M.G.J.P. (Mandy)
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7. van Gerwen, C.J.E.P. (Cedric)
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36. Stone, J.J.W. (Japhet)
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38. de Kruik, P.G. (Nelleke)
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**D66**  
**Maastricht**