

# **LABOUR'S ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR CAMBRIDGE 2010**

## **- OUR VISION FOR DELIVERING CAMBRIDGE THE SUCCESSFUL FUTURE OUR RESIDENTS WANT**

### **Working With Others to Develop a Successful City and Tackle the Big Challenges**

Cambridge and its sub-region need a fresh and unified vision for the future, and fresh consultation that re-engages local residents and local organisations in shaping the future priorities for their city and its surrounding area.

To be successful, Cambridge also needs a unified voice to overcome economic and wider challenges. Joint working by councils and partner organisations, working towards a single unitary council for Cambridge and its sub-region is an essential missing element.

We list below many of our priorities in developing a fresh vision that will deliver for all residents, particularly marginalised sections within our city.

### **DELIVERING ON THE BIG CHALLENGES**

#### **1 Protect Frontline Services and Protect Vulnerable People in Our Community**

- Protect front line services, and protecting all services for vulnerable people, despite the tough spending cuts planned by the Liberal Conservative Coalition Government
- Better match Council services to changing population needs, learning from 2010 census
- More Councillor financial and service scrutiny reviews, by processes supported by all Councillors. Maximise service efficiency and better use of Council resources, including the twelve 2010 city service reviews we proposed earlier
- Value and develop Council staff through major change and major challenges.
- Continue to tackle inequality in Cambridge.

#### **2 More and Better Housing, Tackling Disadvantaged City Environments**

- New criteria and process to decide additional locations for successful new housing
- Recognise the specific need to double housing in Cambridge for older people by 2050

- Tackle deficiencies in disadvantaged Cambridge wards and communities, including inadequate open space and community facilities for all ages, and particularly under 18s
- Council to take control of its housing finances, taking up the Labour Government offer
- Make most of all opportunities for building new affordable rental housing by the Council, private sector and Registered Social Landlords
- Review service level for tenants and their priorities, including adequate staffing levels
- Increase joint work with police and residents to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour too often fed by alcohol, agree shared citywide and area priorities and increase public safety and the confidence of groups including older residents.

### **3      Develop the Cambridge Economy, Jobs and Training**

- Support Cambridge employers, key sectors and industries and major education, and training providers, and minimise impacts from public spending cuts
- Work with Greater Cambridge Partnership and support local sectors including retail, high tech, research and manufacturing
- Campaign against low pay and the stripping of employment rights like pensions.

### **4      Better Transport**

- Support infrastructure improvements including better bus and rail services, interchanges, and improving the A14
- Expand measures that tackle congestion and give priority to non-car journeys, including pedestrians and cyclists.

### **5      Cutting Carbon and Tackling Climate Change**

- Public-focused information and change campaigns, including low carbon home improvements and wider campaigns to show that low carbon also saves people money
- Tackle energy inefficiency in older housing, with particular focus on reducing fuel poverty for older people and people on low incomes.

## **6 More Control for the Public - Let Them Decide More**

- Consult public, interest groups and minority communities better.  
Increase the direct public say on service delivery, including using new national powers
- Involve younger people better, and implement measures they support
- Focus on marginalised groups most needing council services, and assess/address service and consultation failings
- Review Area Committees. Devolve spending to Area Committees and to ward level including a local minor works/repairs budget
- Increase Guildhall usage, and increase use of other Council facilities and resources too.

## **ONE SUCCESSFUL CAMBRIDGE = ONE COUNCIL**

### **7 Work to Develop One Cambridge Council**

- Undertake a detailed two-stage joint Cost Benefit Study
- First, assess the best gains from developing a 'virtual Unitary Authority'  
Work with the County Council, South Cambridgeshire Council and other partners to win efficiency savings, integrate decisions and delivery, and improve services by building on current council reviews. Make Council service delivery stronger and more efficient.
- Second, assess the case for one Cambridge sub-region Unitary Council  
Achieve this also by seeking the support of South Cambridgeshire residents and Councillors for this change.
- Consult residents and interest groups and on changes they want from this.
- Lobby regionally and nationally with a single voice and shared vision.

**We believe that the priorities in this Annual Statement will help deliver the successful future our residents want for their great city of Cambridge, building on our recent Annual Statements since 2005.**

**Cambridge City Council Labour Group  
May 2010**

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