

Creating “One Cambridge - Fair for All”

Labour’s Annual Statement 2016

1. Delivering sustainable prosperity for Cambridge and fair shares for all
2. Tackling the city’s housing crisis and delivering our planning objectives
3. Making Cambridge safer and more inclusive
4. Investing in improving transport and tackling congestion
5. Protecting our city’s unique quality of life
6. Protecting essential services and transforming Council delivery
7. Tackling climate change, and making Cambridge cleaner and greener.

Introduction

- Councillor Lewis Herbert, Leader of the Council

Labour Councillors are developing our ‘Plan for 2020’ for the next four years, including the 65 commitments detailed below. This will set out a clear long term strategic direction for the council and for Cambridge, our city of considerable magic.

Cambridge has many opportunities but significant challenges to overcome too.

Despite an unprecedented period of severe Government cuts, we are determined to protect and develop service, particularly for those who need us most. We will listen to residents and stakeholders to get our services right, working with residents and businesses, with the Council’s highly professional staff and with

many public, private, education and voluntary sector partners.

We are funding the reversal of the County Council's cuts to overnight street lighting.

We will press for a better devolution deal than the Government's initial 'three county devolution' plan that includes Norfolk and Suffolk. This was the wrong deal for Cambridge and Cambridgeshire. Linked to this, we will press for greater freedoms to build homes at affordable rents. This work will be supported by compelling, detailed analysis of the overheated Cambridge housing market.

We will 'green' Cambridge by cutting energy usage and by leading plans to promote cycling, including the north/south Chisholm Trail. We will pioneer plans to cut emissions from buses and taxis, all key steps towards our target of a zero carbon city by 2050.

We will make Cambridge cleaner and greener, adding more recycling options.

We will transform service delivery by 2020, working with our staff, unions and our council partners in South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. We will also use the annual income in excess of £1 million we have generated since 2014, to protect services, invest in property, and in new homes and green projects with a financial return.

1. Delivering sustainable prosperity for Cambridge and fair shares for all

The Council will:

- 1 Carry out the actions in our Anti-Poverty Strategy (APS) [action plan](#) including supporting and promoting the services offered by credit unions in Cambridge; and promoting the living wage.
- 2 Support children and families who face greatest need in the city by providing opportunities to be included and engaged in the life of the city.

- 3 Ensure the impacts of welfare reform are managed smoothly and effectively to include the Council's local council tax reduction scheme; and work with the DWP to support residents with the implementation of Universal Credit.
- 4 Continue to support vital citywide and local advice and support services for those most in need, provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), our skilled council advisers and others. We will carefully target investments from our *Sharing Prosperity Fund*, and investigate expanding CAB outreach workers to other surgeries in communities of high need following success of the Barnwell Health Centre pilot.
- 5 Review community-based activity and facilities, and work in partnership, to ensure that services support those in greatest need.
- 6 Work with digitally excluded tenants and residents to enable them to access online services that improve their life chances.

2. Tackling the city's housing crisis and implementing the Local Plan

The Council will:

1. Work with partner local authorities, Registered Providers and developers to build new homes across all tenures in accordance with the local plan, with a particular focus on maximising delivery of social rent housing.
2. Develop a "General Fund Development Programme" to make the most of the Council's land to provide new market, social rented and – potentially - intermediate housing, at a range of sites including, for example:
 - a. Mill Road Depot; and
 - b. Park Street Car Park, also incorporating underground car parking, commercial space and a new cycle park.
 - c. The North East fringe of Cambridge, near the planned Cambridge North station.

3. Continue to provide council housing, focusing on those most in housing need.
4. Develop further the *Cambridge City Housing Company*, which was set up in 2015 to purchase and manage Intermediate housing at submarket rents and is wholly owned by the Council.
5. Work with our partners in the *City Deal* through the shared Housing Development Agency to deliver additional affordable homes for market sale and rent on sites in and close to Cambridge.
6. Seek ways to continue building new City Council homes after government changes to the rent settlement agreement damaged the Council's long term *Housing Revenue Account* business plan. We will work with communities to ensure that any redevelopment benefits existing as well as future residents.
7. Provide housing advice to reduce, and help prevent, homelessness by offering early advice on alternative housing options.
8. Work with our statutory and voluntary sector partners to reduce street-based homelessness. This has increased due to damaging Government welfare changes, reduced national funding for support agencies and the removal of the council's freedoms to mitigate the on-going loss of council and social housing and the increase in evictions from the private rented sector.
9. Encourage private landlords to deliver good standard, energy-efficient housing and tackle those who do not.
10. Support the local plans through the examination process to adoption and then joint implementation with partners, particularly in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council.
11. Undertake a review of the need for further student accommodation in the city, to ensure the appropriate balance with Local Plan housing sites for market and affordable rent housing, and underpin sound local planning decisions and defences in relation to appeals to the Planning Inspectorate.

12. Seek to secure a target of 40% affordable housing in new developments of 15 or more homes through the planning application process, subject to viability.

3. Making Cambridge safer and more inclusive

The Council will:

1. Work to make the city a safer, more inclusive and welcoming place by promoting equality, diversity advice and events.
2. Work with County Council, Police and local residents and businesses to tackle anti-social behaviour issues, including littering, alcohol-related incidents, fly tipping and nuisance punt touts.
3. Fund overnight street lighting across Cambridge that would otherwise have been lost, to reduce the risk of crime, reduce the fear of crime, and contribute to the wider safety of people travelling during the night or starting their journeys early morning.
4. Upgrade CCTV, including relocatable CCTV, to continue its vital contribution to making Cambridge safer. We will target areas of the city which experience most crime or anti-social behaviour.
5. Follow up the consultation on the proposed *Public Spaces Protection Order* to achieve effective measures to tackle anti-social behaviour from punt touts.
6. Implement the *Mental Health Concordat* in partnership with other organisations, refocusing council service delivery on the needs of residents experiencing mental health issues.
7. Continue to prioritise the prevention of domestic violence and sexual exploitation, in line with the city's *White Ribbon* status. . We will work with partner organisations to achieve this.
8. Continue to rehome homeless Syrian refugees, working with the Home Office and the network of East region councils. Work with Cambridge partner organisations, including the *Cambridge Ethnic*

Community Forum and Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign, and complete a survey of refugee and asylum seeker numbers and needs in Cambridge.

9. Ensure that Council departments, and the partners who deliver services on our behalf, meet high standards in protecting children and adults through our safeguarding activity.
10. Review the Council's approach to public engagement in formal council meetings and decision-making.
11. Review the role of people under eighteen in decision making and having a say on the delivery of council services that affect them.

4. Investing in improving transport and tackling congestion

The Council will:

1. Work in partnership to deliver the City Deal infrastructure schemes and other transport measures that support the sustainable growth of Cambridge by reducing traffic congestion and increasing pedestrian, cycle and public transport use; and by securing additional investment from Government, transport operating companies and others.
2. Manage off-street parking that supports business and residents' needs, investing in modernised payment systems and improved energy efficiency and developing a partnership with the County Council's parking and enforcement roles.
3. Work with Cambridge Business Improvement District, local retailers and businesses and City Deal partners to develop a plan to reduce delivery vehicle movements in the city centre.
4. Continue to deliver improved cycle routes, including the Chisholm Trail, other cross-city cycling initiatives and related cycling improvements.

5. Work with the County Council, Network Rail and private sector partners on proposals for an Addenbrooke's Rail Station and for the May 2017 opening of Cambridge North station. These projects also require integration with improved bus and cycle options. We will also work to improve Cambridge rail station and to secure wider additional investments in the rail network benefitting Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

5. Protecting our city's unique quality of life

The Council will:

- 1 Provide swimming, sport facilities and leisure services that are accessible to everyone, targeting our resources on promoting healthy lifestyles to address health inequalities.
- 2 Engage more residents, and a more diverse range, in the arts and cultural life of Cambridge.
- 3 Provide funding and targeted advice to voluntary organisations, prioritising projects that tackle inequality.
- 4 Deliver capital projects that will enhance community infrastructure and quality of life for residents in new and existing communities.
- 5 Involve communities in the planning, development and management of community assets, including public land and buildings.
- 6 Maintain a high quality and accessible city centre environment by working with the County Council, *Cambridge Business Improvement District* (BID), and local retailers and businesses.
- 7 Ensure that valuable green, natural and historic assets well-used by visitors and residents are protected and improved through the planning process.
- 8 Implement the Council's new tree strategy and existing Council initiatives for improving tree numbers and quality, including increased promotion of the council's *Trees for Babies* scheme. We will seek clarity and partnership working from the County Council in order to retain and improve roadside tree provision.

- 9 Ensure that growth that balances economic success with quality of life and place (including in the design of new buildings) is supported, as set out in the current and emerging local plan strategy.
- 10 Work with Cambridge Live, Cambridge BID and Visit Cambridge & Beyond to develop and deliver a programme of outdoor public events and activities and to maximise the economic benefits from visits and tourism.

6. Protecting essential services and transforming delivery

The Council will:

- 1 Seek to protect residents' services despite the expected loss of 100% of the Council's core grant by 2020. We will develop and implement our '*Plan for 2020*', a four year plan linked to obtaining funding certainty from the Government.
- 2 Support the case for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to jointly manage all the business rates generated in the county to tackle inequality across the county, and address the infrastructure and affordable housing deficit which is a risk to sustainable growth.
- 3 Press Government to retain the *New Homes Bonus* because providing additional new housing depletes council finances and the *New Homes Bonus* offers some compensation for these extra costs, ensuring that future growth is sustainable.
- 4 Review existing, and explore new, opportunities for shared services.
- 5 We will seek the best devolution settlement with Government, in partnership with other Cambridgeshire councils, the *Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership* and others. Our aim is to secure the deal that delivers best for Cambridge, Greater Cambridge, Cambridgeshire and our wider region. Related devolution partnerships with businesses and our wider community include our role in the *Case for Cambridge* led by *Cambridge Ahead* www.cambridgeahead.co.uk/the-case-for-cambridge.

One core objective is the freedom for the Council to build more

affordable homes.

This aims to compensate for the loss of social housing caused by recent Government interventions and will help tackle Cambridge's acute shortage of rental housing.

- 6 Explore opportunities to develop further the Council's investment strategy in property, housing, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- 7 Implement the Council's *Office Accommodation Strategy*, working with shared service partners to achieve cost and carbon savings.
- 8 Generate more income from the Council's existing commercial property portfolio through investment in new and existing property.
- 9 Review current commercial activities and skills and invest in developing them further.
- 10 Establish a new, commercially successful garage and fleet maintenance operation at Waterbeach, co-located with the shared waste and recycling service.
- 11 Establish a new operational depot for *Streets & Open Spaces* and *Estates & Facilities*.
- 12 Ensure that resident and Council customer contacts and queries are managed in a prompt, efficient and responsive way, adopting new self-service technologies to enable customers to access services 24/7.

7. Tackling climate change, making Cambridge cleaner and greener

The Council will:

1. Implement the actions in our [Climate Change Strategy](#), reducing emissions from our own estate and our property portfolio.
2. Work with residents, businesses and other organisations to reduce emissions in the city; including working with coach, bus and taxi

operators to reduce vehicle emissions harmful to public health.

3. Adapt further to the impacts of climate change to increase the city's ability to cope with extreme weather, particularly for the most vulnerable.
4. Ensure that new developments meet the council's policies for sustainable construction and energy and water efficiency.
5. Implement and develop the shared waste and recycling service with South Cambridgeshire District Council.
6. Provide high quality Green Infrastructure that enhances residents' quality of life.
7. Ensure that new developments provide the open space and recreational facilities that residents need.
8. Review and improve cleanliness of streets and public open spaces and provide greater opportunities for the public to influence decisions on cleansing and enforcement in order to target Cambridge's most challenging locations.
9. Work with the police to identify the small number of people responsible for repeat graffiti around the city, and tackle this costly anti-social behaviour.