

Liberal Democrat Group Annual Statement 2016

In the forthcoming year the Liberal Democrat Group will pursue the following objectives on the council:

- **Tackling the city's housing crisis**, not only by fighting for municipal social housing, but also focusing on the deficit in the broader housing market: securing approval for the draft local plan; urgently reviewing the council's capacity to challenge developers' viability claims to avoid providing affordable housing; continuing to drive for council investment in intermediate housing; bringing forward plans for redevelopment of the Queen Anne Terrace car to include housing; implementation of our plan to modernise Anstey Way homes.
- **Re-invigoration of the city's transport vision**, putting priority on achieving an effective traffic reduction regime over allowing irreversible damage to the urban street scene, and judging overall strategy by how it secures a first class bus service and an excellent environment for cycling; arguing strongly for an Addenbrookes rail station; ending the freeze on council car parking charges and re-introducing annual reviews.
- **Implementation of practical measures to fight Climate Change, improve our environment and air quality**: promoting electric taxis and buses; securing conversion of city streetlights to energy-saving LED; a major new tree planting programme; upgrading the energy efficiency of the council's extensive commercial property portfolio
- **Protection and enhancement of public spaces**: starting a dialogue with residents about re-inventing car-lined streets; bringing forward schemes to refurbish the Market Square as the home for a thriving market and Mitcham's Corner; preventing over-commercialisation of the council's green spaces; accelerating the promised blitz on A Boards and other street clutter; stronger planning enforcement; public accountability for open spaces in new developments.
- **Standing by the vulnerable in the city** by empowerment and by seeking sustainable root cause remedies: expansion of efforts to rehabilitate members of the streetlife community; review and respond to the serious increase in rough sleeping in the city; fund improved help for refugees

coming to the city; consider expansion of restorative justice through Neighbourhood Resolution Panels.

- **Improving the way our governance works for citizens:** giving priority to integrated and simplified decision-making for the natural unit of Greater Cambridge, above the creation of an additional layer of government over a wider geography; making the Council more responsive to complaints; reviewing how elected members can hold the Council's new shared services to account.