

Making Cambridge Sustainable

Managing the city's growth
Cutting carbon emissions
Providing good services
Preventing crime



*Liberal Democrat Manifesto
for the
2007 City Council Elections*

Introduction – by Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith

Seven years of Liberal Democrats control of Cambridge City Council have transformed the way its services are run and have earned welcome national recognition from the independent local government watchdog. We have enhanced many services, identified many ways to improve their value for money, staked out ambitious programmes of action and set about identifying resources to take them forward. Rated an Excellent Council in 2004 by the Audit Commission, we have just received a new assessment which it would be hard to better.

“The Council improved 74% of its performance indicators ... It is now amongst the best performing councils in the country in some areas such a violent and vehicle related crime ... The Council’s use of resources ... has now been assessed at the highest level. Its medium term financial strategy has ... been highlighted as good practice. ... Costs of services compare favourably with other councils and average council tax levels are amongst the lowest in the country.” (Audit Commission, March 2007)

After the elections last May we formulated a vision for how we believe the city should be, and then reassessed the Council’s objectives for the medium term that would help to realise that vision. This manifesto brings that vision and its four underpinning themes of Sustainability, Service, Vitality, and Growth, to the citizens of Cambridge to seek their mandate.

As we illustrate below, there has been a year of substantial progress towards those objectives. Moreover we have provided funding in this year’s budget to continue that progress to achieve the plans for the coming year that we outline below.

We have faced a number of additional challenges during the year. The new concessionary bus fare scheme, which we have enhanced significantly to include cross-boundary journeys into the rest of the county, is costing the council tax payer greatly in excess of the amount the government funded. A further financial knock on effect, though with welcome environmental benefits, is that bus usage has soared while income from the city car parks has declined. This has left us with very little room to manoeuvre financially. Nevertheless we were able to identify some £1m of savings which we have used to meet these pressures and to fund initiatives to meet our priorities,

As a result two themes that characterise the coming year are investment and review. For example investment in premises and equipment for handling service enquiries will lead next year to improved and less expensive services, and more effective use of parts the Guildhall building will bring more appropriate facilities for tourism and a valuable income stream. A review of the Employment Foundation Scheme was concluded in this year; as a result better provision of training opportunities is now being made for a group of otherwise hard to employ young people, and an significant saving will start to accrue. Over the coming years other services will require reviewing to ensure that the way they are provided is appropriate to the changing needs and resources of the city.

OUR VISION

... is of a compact, dynamic, sustainable City with a thriving historic core surrounded by attractive neighbourhoods and green spaces, and where the community as a whole and every person in it matters.

There will be strong leadership on environmental issues, and diverse local communities will enjoy a high quality of life in safe, accessible neighbourhoods supported by affordable housing, integrated transport, and good access to leisure and community facilities.

Cambridge will continue to foster a strong local economy together with its development as a centre of excellence and a world leader in the fields of higher education and research.

Our Medium Term Objectives are to

Promote Cambridge as a sustainable city, in particular by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste going into landfill in the City and sub-region

Ensure that residents and other service users have an entirely positive experience of dealing with the Council

Maintain a healthy, safe and enjoyable city for all, with thriving and viable neighbourhoods

Lead the growth of Cambridge to achieve attractive, sustainable new neighbourhoods, including affordable housing, close to a good range of facilities, and supported by transport networks so that people can opt not to use the car

1. Promote Cambridge as a sustainable city, in particular by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste going into landfill in the City and sub-region

The serious reality and urgent timescale of climate change mean that Cambridge must make significant progress in mitigating of its contribution to global warming and adapting to the consequences of it. A Liberal Democrat led city council will take the lead in preparing a plan for the City which will address climate change at two levels, across the city and within the council itself addressing actions for both mitigation and adaptation. We will develop a climate change strategy for the whole city, in partnership with other public and private sector organisations, community groups and residents. Several of these potential partners are already addressing climate change. Looking at the council itself as substantial organisation, we are preparing a climate change action plan to address the causes and risks of climate change associated with Council service delivery. Mitigation actions will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases which cause climate change from activities such as energy use, transportation and waste disposal. Adaptation actions will manage the risks associated with climate change that are already happening, such as increased seasonality, variability and intensity of rainfall, increased temperatures and increased storm intensity.

THE PAST YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Climate change

- Launched a Climate Change Strategy for Cambridge with a firm timetable for engaging with organisations in the city to deliver mitigation and adaptation measures in the city as a whole
- Appointed a Climate Change officer to lead the development of the climate change strategy
- Tightened the criteria for the Sustainable City grants programme in order to focus on organisations helping Cambridge deliver climate change programmes

Carbon emissions

- Formally signed up to a carbon reduction pledge, the Nottingham Declaration, for the Council itself and for the city
- Adopted a Home Energy Strategy establishing a baseline of SAP ratings (SAP is the Standard Assessment Procedure by which energy efficiency of a building is measured). The aim is to increase the average ratings by 2% each year in each tenure of housing (ie owner occupied, private rented, council owned, registered social landlord).
- Trialled experimental solar panels on Rawlyn Court properties, a council owned sheltered housing scheme.
- Upgraded controls on the heating for Mandela/Hobson House & the Guildhall

Environmental leadership

- Adopted a biodiversity strategy for the City Council
- Introduced 'buy-green' purchasing guidelines for council departments

Sustainable transport

- Pressed the County to include emission reduction as well as congestion as an objective for their emerging road pricing scheme
- Launched baby buggy rent facilities at Park St car park for cyclists with children.
- Facilitated the ambulance cycle in partnership with St John Ambulance

Waste and sustainability

- Increased the amount of waste that is either recycled or composted by expanding the amount of door to door recycling. We are now either recycling or composting 40% of household waste in the city.
- Provided an extra vehicle and crew to expand the capacity of the recycling collection service.
- Published a draft Sustainable Construction policy leading the way on setting high standards for construction including water and construction waste

OUR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Climate change

- Prepare the climate change strategy for the city and develop an action plan for the council and work with institutions, businesses and community groups to take the strategy forward

Carbon footprint

- Support renewable energy projects through Energy Saving Trust grants
- An experimental wind turbine will be fixed on a City Homes property in the near future and its performance will be evaluated.
- Continue improving the energy efficiency of all City Homes properties with measures such as increased loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, and dry lining for solid walls.

Sustainable transport

- Work with County to set high standards for target modal shift, and ambitious cuts in emissions, through Cambridge Area Transport Plan and road pricing plans.
- Introduce charging arrangements for electric bikes and cars in multi storey car parks
- Introduce season ticket pricing structure to encourage low emission cars
- Trial electric vehicles in city centre cleansing rounds
- Develop a travel plan for council employees to encourage greater use of public transport and bicycles, and encourage other employers to do the same

Waste, recycling, and pollution

- Continue extending recycling to flats and other hard to reach properties
- Working with tenants to improve recycling facilities in council flats
- Establish a bring site for dry cell batteries
- Improve crematorium to achieve mercury abatement standard
- Reduce amount of paper used in the democratic process
- Work with outside agencies such as the Environment Agency to maintain and improve the quality of watercourses in the city to prevent flooding
- Promote sustainable urban drainage in new developments

Sustainability

- Seeking to achieve a leading edge sustainable development of affordable housing on Council's land on the Clay Farm part of the Southern Fringe
- Continue to develop public engagement in environmental agenda via grant funded organisations
- Refurbishment of public conveniences to incorporate renewable energy sources

2. Ensure that residents and other service users have an entirely positive experience of dealing with the Council

As highlighted in the Audit Commission's recent assessment, many of the council's services continue to improve. That is a credit to the quality of the council's officers and reflects in turn the investment we are making both in staff and in systems. At the same time it is important to ensure that residents and services users get good information and have effective opportunities to influence the way services are reviewed and developed. We also recognise the need to be aware of the very diverse nature of those residents and service users, and the challenge of trying to ensure that their needs are recognised and met.

THE PAST YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Service quality and efficiency

- Council is recognised as a good employer: it has been re-accredited with the Investor in People Award, and recognised by Government for promoting women into senior positions
- Reduced from ten to seven days the time taken for the Council to deal with complaints
- Secured full accreditation of council's CCTV operators
- Installed credit card facilities at Park Street car park.

Engaging with residents and service users

- Conducted a successful series of workshops with Residents Associations to improve their understanding of and confidence in the planning process
- Establishment of "Housing Sounding Board" of over 1000 City Homes tenants who are consulted about the management of their homes and estates
- Landlord accreditation scheme has been shaped by consultation with landlords, agencies and those seeking to provide for tenants
- Continue to encourage increased participation in the democratic process by initiatives like 'I'm a Councillor Get Me Out of Here'
- The Green Spaces team has been in touch with local interest groups/residents associations to offer enhanced consultation and cooperation with the Council, particularly focusing on the city's commons and open spaces.

Access and equality

- Special accommodation built for people with disabilities in collaboration with a Housing Association
- Improved speed and efficiency in making adaptations so people can continue living in their homes independently
- Moved to a new emergency answering service for elderly and disabled people which is friendly, caring, efficient and cost effective
- Rolled out new parking dispensation scheme for general and health workers, with information booklet for tradespeople.
- Improved recruitment of staff from recognised minority groups

- Seek locations for permanent gypsies and travellers sites possibly within fringe growth areas still due to develop master plans, and continue to search for a suitable travellers transit site

OUR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Service quality and efficiency

- Investment of £3.8m in a modern service delivery platform to enhance the delivery of services to residents and customers – benefits will include a new customer service centre and new customer telephone contact centre. Project will deliver efficiencies and will position the council to meet the anticipated growth of Cambridge into the medium term
- Streamline council's scrutiny arrangements to put more resources into Area Committees
- Re-opened Lion Yard car park will have credit card payment facilities
- Introduce new control equipment in multi storey car parks
- Improve air handling and heating systems at Corn Exchange
- Introduce mobile-phone ticket-marketing
- Achieve at least two stars in Audit Commission inspection of housing service

Engaging with residents and service users

- Continue to encourage increased participation in the democratic process using a range of innovative approaches, such as *'I'm a Councillor Get Me Out of Here'* and *'It's About Me'*.
- Develop approaches to public consultation through the new Statement of Community Involvement
- Engage in regular consultation with Residents Associations
- Review the role of Development Control Forums to encourage pre-application discussions between residents and developers as well as the current post-application format
- Improve choices available at crematorium in consultation with users

Access and equality

- Improvement in the council's website in conjunction with the customer access strategy
- Improve the use of technology in the Committee Rooms in the Guildhall – in order to achieve more effective presentations to the public, in particular topics arising from planning applications
- Develop IT systems so planning applications can be submitted and viewed on the web.
- Move the Visitor Information Centre into the old Crown Court area, providing it with an up-to-date customer environment
- Publish food hygiene enforcement reports on the web
- Complete implementation of Choice-based Lettings: This will provide a new way of allocating council housing which treats people as rational: a potential tenant has a choice instead of being told by an officer where they must go. A new banding system will give greater certainty as, once in the band, applications go in date order

so there is no leap-frogging; sub-regional co-operation will give greater choice. Support for people who might have difficulty with the scheme will be built in. The scheme will provide greater transparency as those who apply but don't get the house will be told why. The Government wants all districts to move to this way in the next decade: the City Council is ahead of the majority and this is first sub-regional scheme that includes rural and urban areas.

- Continue to provide quality sheltered housing for those who need and want it, improving the older schemes which don't meet modern aspirations. Mansel Court will be refurbished in the year: Whitefriars and Rawlyn Court which have already been done are very popular and always full as are the other sheltered housing with modern facilities, such as Ditchburn Place, and School Court.
- Refocused Taxicard on recipients with both financial and mobility needs
- Prevention of homelessness and reduced use of Bed & Breakfast through an "Access scheme", that includes liaison with landlords, and loans for deposits
- New homelessness and rough sleepers strategy with increased stress on helping people off the streets rather than just "containing" them. Achieved through: grant to Wintercomfort to help them refocus on individual assistance; opening of new continuing drinkers hostel at 451 Newmarket Road; track record of Jubilee Project and Rustat Road Foyer in preventing young people becoming homeless and enabling them to learn how to cope in the adult world; continuing support for 125 Newmarket Road (specialist surgery for the homeless); continuing working with ECHG, Cyrenians, Cambridge Women's Aid, Women and Homelessness, Centre 33 (also for young people), King Street Housing Trust, CIAC, CWA, Sofa as well as Wintercomfort, Jubilee, Jimmy's; several of these received grants from the council.
- Continue to support a huge diversity of social, educational, environmental, cultural and recreational provision through the local voluntary sector

3. Maintain a healthy, safe and enjoyable city for all, with thriving and viable neighbourhoods

The attractiveness of the city is achieved in a variety of ways. The neighbourhoods where we live and the facilities they offer are as important as the city centre where we can shop and find entertainment. At the same time it is crucial to maintain and conserve the city's historic environment, and to provide high quality management and maintenance of the parks and open spaces.

THE PAST YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Enjoyment

- King's Hedges Learner Pool has been completely refurbished and now provides a fantastic facility for parents and children in the area
- Stourbridge Common and Christ's Pieces play areas have just been refurbished, with Histon Road Rec due to be renovated in March.
- Major refurbishment of the Corn Exchange in 2006 has significantly improved this premier central public venue.

Health and Safety

- Installed infra-red CCTV cameras on Parker's Piece and Christ's Pieces
- Launched an innovative SMS service to alert CCTV operators to problems situations
- Introduced joint working by police and parking and car park attendants
- Introduced pee-pods to reduce problems of late night peeing in doorways and alleys
- Improved overnight security arrangements in car parks.
- Taken up Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act powers including tackling abandoned supermarket trolleys

Getting Around

- Improved cycle routes along Coldhams Lane footpath and Gough Way.
- Kickstarted Park and Ride bus service from Trumpington on Sundays.
- Refurbished bus stops in Abbey and Kings Hedges

Local Amenity

- Boosted Streetscene to allow rapid response to issues raised by local residents
- Introduced a new Moorings policy for the City reducing the numbers of boats moored and ensuring a better balance for users of the river.
- Worked to create new affordable housing on council owned land at Barnwell Court
- Undertaken neighbourhood blitzes for example in Kings Hedges, West Chesterton, Trumpington
- Opened new East Chesterton Community Centre at Brown's Field
- Refurbished Buchan Street and Ross Street neighbourhood centres
- Invested £0.8m in independent community facilities at Romsey Mill, St Andrew's Hall and Arbury Community Centre
- Brought back several long-term empty houses into use
- Improved standards of cleaning in communal areas of council flats and estates

OUR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Enjoyment

- Sheep's Green Learner Pool to be refurbished and security railings erected during spring 2007 – improved facilities to reopen in Summer 2007.
- Continue working with boaters, rowers and anglers to ensure that the river provides an outstanding facility for all.
- Launch a new Leisurecard in the Spring in conjunction with Local Secrets, offering wider advantages from increased numbers of local businesses offering discounts through the Local Secrets link.
- Continue to work with partners to secure a City centre venue for young people
- Provide a new vehicle for the DEC youth project and launch of new service offering young people somewhere to go
- Broaden the range of events staged at Guildhall
- Refurbishment of King George Vth rec. pavilion

Health and Safety

- Provide grants and loans to elderly and disabled home owners to improve heating and heating efficiency in their homes
- Continue working with police to consider use of 'cumulative impact zones' to regulate new licensed premises in appropriate parts of the city.
- Consider health issues and the provision of healthcare facilities in the appraisal of policies and projects and in the design of development, by working with healthcare partners
- Further implementation of new homelessness and rough sleepers strategy, including plans for a new assessment centre at Jimmy's, leveraging in substantial grants from the government to improve conditions there. A reconnections policy, helping people to reconnect with their best support system, is to be launched in June.
- Implement the new Smoke Free legislation to control smoking in workplaces and enclosed public spaces
- Increased work to maintain safety of trees in public spaces
- Make appropriate provision to ensure safety of graveyard monuments
- Review ways to make Midsummer Fair safer, and more neighbourly and attractive.
- 'Designing out' crime in new developments
- Work via integrated Anti Social Behaviour, Community Safety and Racial Harassment Service team and through community safety partnership to achieve target 21% reduction in crime
- Consider introducing additional local byelaws to reduce anti-social behaviour where this is a problem
- Complete the roll-out of neighbourhood policing as an effective form of public engagement linked to the Area Committees building on the experiences to date.
- Emphasis on prevention of domestic violence: via a "safe room" project with the police; and comprehensive training for officers especially those in the housing department to recognise signs of domestic violence and take appropriate action

Getting Around

- Fund new Dial A Ride bus
- Launch Cambridge's first Car Club

- Continue to support night and evening buses.
- Invest in new major cycle paths such as Madingley Road, and continue to promote two-way cycling on one-way streets.
- Continue the programme of improving bus shelters
- Spend surplus from parking enforcement to support community transport schemes
- Bring the new car park serving Grand Arcade and Lion Yard into operation with its new cycle parking spaces

Local Amenity

- Investment of £3.6m in the Lion Yard shopping centre, to protect and enhance the economic dynamism of Cambridge, and to continue to provide a vital source of revenue for the council
- Investment of £600,000 in the Guildhall to improve the use of the building through relocating the Visitor Information Centre and the Box Office and the introduction of a major restaurant on Wheeler Street. The objective is to improve the quality of the Peas Hill and Wheeler Street space, while increasing the amount of revenue the Council receives
- Prepare development briefs for Old Press site and East Mill Road/Brookfields
- Promote awareness of the built environment through David Urwin award and Blue Plaque scheme as well as member training and support for architecture week activities.
- Make progress with conservation area reviews including an appraisal of the Storeys Way area
- Continue to implement Environmental Improvement Programmes by area committees with newly devolved budgets
- Continue to lobby the County Council for a new residents parking policy which will allow a greater ability to control commuter parking selectively
- Pledge to improve the amenity of our parks and open spaces by ensuring bins are emptied regularly, the grass and flowers are nurtured and cut regularly and tennis courts and games areas are kept in excellent condition.
- Introduced a new, more strategic, approach to providing open space, games areas and play equipment arising from S106 contributions. New procurement procedures will ensure new projects are implemented more rapidly.
- New arrangements with Streetscene will enable Active Communities more effectively to demand adequate levels of litter-picking, grass-cutting and rectification in our parks and open spaces.
- Rebuild Chesterton Road toilets and recycling centre to an innovative design, and refurbish Cherry Hinton Hall toilets
- Assess outcome of verge parking byelaw trial
- Make post-code based information available on the web about street sweeping, weed control, and grass cutting schedules
- Imminent launch of landlord accreditation scheme identifying and giving publicity to good landlords. The scheme will include gas and electrical safety, and energy efficiency. Landlords will be offered deals to help fund improvements to their rented property

4. Lead the growth of Cambridge to achieve attractive, sustainable new neighbourhoods, including affordable housing, close to a good range of facilities, and supported by transport networks so that people can opt not to use the car

The rationale for working towards the sustainable growth of Cambridge is as compelling as ever. The aim is to locate new low energy housing, much of it 'affordable' in various forms, in urban extensions near to the city where the jobs are, connected by good public transport links. However the County Council has been tardy in developing transport plans for the city and modelling of the growth areas to establish what scale of development could be sustained. Actually planning and implementing the new schemes and their infrastructure to the ambitious high standards that we are seeking is a very big piece of work that needs the right teams of staff, and that in turn requires significant funding.

THE PAST YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Sustainable Development

- Adopted the new Local Plan with its vision for a compact and dynamic city surrounded by accessible green space, and our commitment to sensitive and sustainable growth as well as a full range of opportunities to all its citizens including the provision of affordable housing.
- Invested to create micro business offices on one of the Council's commercial office properties to encourage local neighbourhood business start-ups
- Allocated 50% of Council owned land on Clay farm site to affordable housing, more than the 40% requirement in the Local Plan.

Transport

- Welcomed the government's commitment to a new framework for bus services allowing a stronger role by local authorities in partnership schemes with bus operators
- Negotiated a revision of the concessionary fares scheme enabling Cambridge residents to cross the border with South Cambs.
- Engaged with the County to press an agenda of ambitious support for bus and cycle modes of transport in future developments, aiming to encourage a 40% trips made by car in new developments compared to the 60% now typical in the city.
- Put forward a framework for a review of residents parking schemes to the County, aiming to facilitate the bringing in of powers to regulate commuter parking especially South of the city.
- Pressed the County for an in-depth review of the Station Area Interchange opportunity with the aims of maximising the reduction in pressure from interchange facilities in the city centre
- Pressed for bus priority routes such as in Station Road
- Researched and developed proposals for a trial car club, using commercial operators, in Romsey.
- Successfully operated the LAPE scheme earning national recognition
- Reinvested the surplus in community transport and concessionary fares schemes

OUR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Policy Framework

- Work with developers and other authorities to develop and adopt a Quality Charter for Growth in the Cambridge area, setting out a joint vision
- Consult on new Planning Obligations Strategy including S106 contributions for primary health care
- Fight government's new higher and 'minimum' targets for building new houses in city. Argue that we now need a stable framework in which to deliver existing stretching ambitions.
- Consult on the new affordable housing Supplementary Planning Document
- Study housing market, retail capacity and employment land in order to inform new local plans.
- Draw up new guidance on trees in growth areas and development sites.
- Work to monitor new Local Plan and to develop new core strategy for new Local Development Framework
- New approach to grant-funding not-for-profit sector sees introduction of a 'Futures Fund', enabling organisations to prepare for the challenges arising from the expansion of Cambridge.
- Work with government and partner to access funding to ensure sustainable growth can be planned and delivered within new structures
- Continue to achieve additional affordable housing as 40% of new developments

Fringe Sites

- Seeking to achieve a balanced mixed community on Council's land on the Clay Farm part of the Southern Fringe
- Support inquiry into Cambridge East Area Action Plan and prepare strategic master plan for Cambridge East in line with our vision and standards set out in Local Plan, the Quality Charter and our Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document
- Work towards an agreed framework with other authorities for the North West area action plan.
- Ensure robust and effective project management of negotiations on major planning applications for areas of major change in southern fringe and between the Histon and Huntingdon roads in southern fringe, which represent over 5000 new homes

Transport

- Continue to work with and influence the County Council to complete studies and consult on options for a long term transport strategy for the city, including a locally run road pricing scheme so that drivers are charged for using roads around the city. The revenue should be ring-fenced to provide further improvements in green transport
- Promote a polycentric system of transport interchanges, most notably at the railway station, so that people can change from one service to another without having to rely on the city centre
- Press County Council to conclude the review of residents parking schemes aiming to facilitate the bringing in of powers to regulate commuter parking especially South of the city.

Conclusion

There are potentially a number of significant threats to our plans some come from central government, and some come from the tensions of working with neighbouring local authorities that do not necessarily share all of our vision for Cambridge.

The unfair Council Tax is still with us. After three years of inquiring, Sir Michael Lyons has come back with a proposal to tinker with the system but still not offering an alternative, such as Local Income Tax, which takes account of people's actual ability to pay. **Liberal Democrats would scrap the unfair Council Tax.** Moreover the way central government grant is calculated means that the city council will in all probability be needing to provide expanded services on the basis of an income that does not grow in step with the population.

On the basis of **flawed calculations** the Government have proposed that Cambridge can accommodate **an additional 4,300 houses** on top of the 14,700 that were identified in the 2003 Structure Plan. Moreover these figures are being stated to be **minimum** targets rather than maxima. **The City Council will continue to object to Government about these draft plans.** More sinisterly the Government seeks to delete the term 'compact' from the description of the character of Cambridge, which seems to invite ribbon development and sprawl.

The Government will not give adequate backing for our proposals for creating new sustainable neighbourhoods. **They would not allow the Local Plan to require 50% affordable housing in new developments**, reducing that to 40% or even less. Current proposals to move to a regional average target of 35% will further erode our ambitions. In addition **they would not allow a requirement above 10% renewable energy in new development.** The Government opposed giving councils the power to require developers to achieve more than 10% renewable energy on larger sites.

Gordon Brown is requiring cuts in the county's allocation of Supporting People funding. In turn this is likely to have a significant effect on the amount of local authority or registered social landlord **sheltered housing** in the city if a countywide 'levelling down' is imposed. Other groups of **vulnerable people** will also find their support is reduced.

In view of the problems with the Government's funding for the concessionary fares scheme for 2006-07 and 2007-08, we will lobby them both through the County and directly for a more sensible concessionary fares scheme from 2008-09 onwards with funding to match.

Even with the limited amount of growth that has taken place **the boundaries of Cambridge are not fit for purpose**, and will be even less so when the major growth areas have been developed. Administrative boundaries will go through the middle of communities who receive services on one side from Cambridge and on the other from Cambourne. **We will seek the support of South Cambridgeshire District Council to a review of the boundary and mount a case to the Boundaries Commission.**

The political landscape is filling up with 'partnership bodies' whose **accountability is seriously in question**, amongst them Cambridgeshire Horizons, the local delivery

vehicle for the growth areas, and Cambridgeshire Together, the Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement through which the government proposes to channel a number of funding streams.

Central government is now making essential additional funding for the growth area conditional on the setting up of a number of new joint bodies. **The Liberal Democrat City Council has largely set the pace** in trying to ensure that these are organised in a way which will help **much needed housing and infrastructure** to be built while **maintaining accountability** to the people of Cambridge.

Meeting the need for affordable housing in Cambridge, where there are 5,000 people on the waiting list, is compromised by the way in which **Gordon Brown takes over £8 million a year from council tenants** to spend on London and other large conurbations.

We will demand that the **£700,000 rightfully owed to Cambridge** under the Business Growth Incentive and **stolen by the Government** is restored forthwith, so that a fair share of increased business rates reflecting the growth of the city's economy can be spent locally on supporting the infrastructure of the city.