

Covering: Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton,  
Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market,  
Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey,  
Trumpington and West Chesterton wards

# YOUR

# 2016



# COUNCIL REPORT

Cambridge City Council  
*Labour's second year in power*



## Dear Resident,

Our second 'Annual Report' details the ways Labour's team of councillors are improving your city.

We are improving your essential services, particularly for those who need us most, despite severe government cuts. We are also transforming delivery with our South Cambridgeshire partners, saving over £1 million per year.

We listen to you to get our services right, helped by the incredible professionalism of our staff.

We are funding city streetlights to keep them bright at night, reversing Cambridgeshire County Council cuts in April, and are making Cambridge cleaner, adding more litter and dog bins than ever before on our streets.

We have added another £1 million a year to our income by investing reserves in property, new homes and green initiatives, rather than the low interest accounts and Icelandic banks favoured by the Lib Dems.

We are resisting the government's 'devolution' plans to force us into a 'shotgun wedding' with Norfolk and Suffolk because it

is the wrong deal for Cambridge, and because they have refused us greater freedoms to build homes at affordable rents, adding to the stock we are now creating.

We are 'greening' Cambridge by cutting our energy usage and by leading plans to increase cycling and the Chisholm Trail, as well as pioneering plans to cut air emissions from buses and taxis, all key steps towards our target of a zero carbon city by 2050.

Vote Labour again on Thursday 5th May and we will make our unique city an even better place for residents.

Lewis

**Councillor Lewis Herbert**  
Leader of Cambridge City Council  
lewis.herbert@cambridge.gov.uk  
01223 721027



***"Support us again and we will make our unique city an even better place for all"***



Labour councillors (pictured) took control of Cambridge City Council from the Lib Dems in May 2014.

## Daniel Zeichner MP: "Fighting for our city"

"As Cambridge's MP, day in, day out, I make the case for our city while the Tories vote to make life tougher for people.

We have a housing crisis in Cambridge, yet **Cameron is forcing councils to sell off council homes** and their 'pay to stay' policy is an attack on aspiration. The government is cutting funding to local government and then trying to leave councils to take the blame. **Since 2010 Cambridge City Council has lost 40% of its funding from government.**

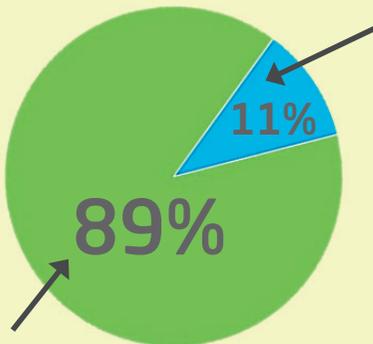
**However Labour councillors have fought tirelessly to make our city fairer.** I am proud the council has provided extra support for the foodbank, helped families hit by the unfair bedroom tax and **stepped in to keep streetlights on** when Cambridgeshire County Council cut funding.

**In parliament I have battled against council funding cuts**, exposed the collapse of the Cambridgeshire NHS UnitingCare contract and forced an apology from the government over the horrendous case of the Libyan cadets who sexually assaulted residents. I will keep fighting for our city."



## Where your council tax goes

### Who spends your council tax?



**Cambridgeshire County Council, Police and Fire Services**

**The County Council covers:** *education, health, libraries, social services, roads and traffic, Park & Rides, gritting, transport, trading standards, waste disposal, and the registration of births, deaths and marriages.*

### Cambridge City Council

While Cambridge City Council is responsible for council tax collection, residents often are unaware that **89% goes to other bodies.**

Cambridgeshire County Council takes 73% of your bill, the police 12% and fire service 4%. **The amount of your council tax Cambridge City Council spends is shown in the pie chart in blue. It is just 11%.**

Our income is supplemented by a central government grant for local services which has been slashed every year under the Lib-Con Coalition and present Tory government.

**We have to stretch our resources to cover:** *social housing, leisure, entertainment, elections, recycling and rubbish collections, licensing, planning and building control, parks, policing partnerships, grants, street cleaning and environmental health services.*

## Helping those in need & protecting services - *your Labour council has:*

**Living  
Wage  
Employer**

**Won the Regional Living Wage Champion Award** from the Living Wage Foundation for being the most active and successful council in East Anglia at promoting the Living Wage among businesses.



**Set a 'no cuts' budget** which reduced back-room bureaucracy and increased income from property investments to protect frontline services from any cuts whatsoever - despite massive cuts to funding from central government.



**Implemented the first stage of a Credit Union promotion scheme** to help people get access to inclusive, fair banking and credit services, boosting membership by 15% and creating 5 new access points where people can sign up to save, as well as helping 76 school children set up savings accounts as part of a 'junior saver' pilot project.



**Put £65k into helping people who have been unable to access the internet, including the elderly and vulnerable,** get online by funding training courses and lending out laptops - helping hundreds to 'go digital'.

**NHS**

**Paid for an outreach worker to provide welfare and debt advice** at East Barnwell GP Surgery, who has helped residents increase their incomes by £160,000 in total in just 8 months - with an expansion to another GP surgery planned soon.

## Fighting for social housing - *your Labour council has:*

- **Welcomed City Homes tenants into our new council homes at Atkins Close, Kings Hedges and Wadloes Road, Abbey,** which are now 100% social housing sites after buying back the land the Lib Dems had sold off to market sale developers.
- **Started work on the new homes at Hawkins Road, Kings Hedges,** another site which is now also 100% council homes after using 'Right to Buy' receipts to buy back land sold by the Lib Dems.
- **Approved plans to invest £2m** to redevelop part of Akeman Street as 100% social rented homes in consultation with residents.



## Supporting our communities and voluntary groups - *Labour has:*



**Invested £900k this year in the city's voluntary sector**, while creating initiatives like the 'Volunteer for Cambridge' community fair. This year over 100 organisations were represented and nearly 900 people attended.



**Put in place funding for free swimming lessons for 3-4 year-olds in identified low-income households**, while our Sports Development Service helps bridge the health divide working with patients registered at GP surgeries in Abbey, King's Hedges and East Chesterton.



Centre

**Supported new and existing communities through our community centres**, with new centres at Clay Farm and Storey's Field from this autumn. We have also funded community organisations in Abbey, King's Hedges and Arbury.



**Supported cultural activities and improved opportunities for wider community engagement with the arts**. Funding the not-for-profit charity 'Cambridge Live' to deliver the acclaimed Folk Festival, Big Weekend and Bonfire Night city events. The council also directly supports projects like 'My Cambridge' which introduces young people to vibrant local cultural activities.



**As an international 'City of Sanctuary'**, been working closely with local groups to assist Syrian refugees, and have provided homes and security for several Syrian families.

## New housing models and investment - *your Labour council has:*

- **Created the Cambridge City Housing Company**, wholly owned by the council, to help tackle the private sector rent affordability crisis by letting homes on longer tenancies at below market rents.
- **Invested in 23 new homes in Water Lane, East Chesterton and Aylesborough Close, Arbury**, to be part of the new Cambridge City Housing Company, bringing land sold by the Lib Dems back into council ownership.
- **Expanded 'Town Hall Lettings'**, our social letting agency, to include managing homes for the council housing company, offering low fees for tenants and more protection.



## Open spaces - *Labour has:*

- **Completed a full review of all play areas** to make sure we know the true quantity and quality of all our equipment in playgrounds and that future funds go where they are needed.
- **Instigated a study aimed at improving access to our city centre for everyone**, looking especially at street clutter which is a particular concern for those with mobility issues or with young children.
- **Launched a new tourism organisation, 'Visit Cambridge and Beyond'**, aimed at changing the pattern of tourism in our city away from a dependence on daytrips and towards long-term stays.

## Electric Cambridge - *Labour has:*

**Been successful in our initial bid for an 'electric taxi' feasibility study** by the Office for Low Emission Vehicle (OLEV), with decision on funding for top-up grants for taxis and the installation of rapid charge points announced nationally in June. We have also put a limit on the oversupply of local taxis.



**Supported Stagecoach in a bid for OLEV funding** to transform its city fleet into low emission 'flywheel' buses and improve our air quality.



**Replaced the council's old diesel 'panel vans' with 9 electric vehicles**, with a firm commitment for more. We are now fixing the fossil fuel fleet left by the Lib Dems. Despite their 14 years in power, they left no electric legacy.

## Confronting city's housing crisis - *your Labour council has:*

- **Managed a significant rise in homelessness applications** caused by government welfare reform and the housing affordability crisis and continued to invest in homelessness prevention and support for tenants.
- **Cracked down on poor landlords**, taking successful court actions on illegal evictions, overcrowding and unsafe properties.
- **Stood up for Cambridge's social and private sector tenants** in Westminster by making the case against poorly thought out housing policies like the forced sale of hundreds of council homes.
- **Maintained our high level of investment in the fencing budget** to tackle a decade of underinvestment on council estates by the Lib Dems.



## Enhancing our open spaces - *Labour has:*

- **Completed a new 'Tree Strategy' which clarifies the City Council's policies on the trees** that we own and how we deal with those that we manage for other people (such as trees on the highway that belong to the County Council).
- **Provided free trees to parents marking their child's birth** with the council's 'trees for babies' scheme. If you are a new parent go to [cambridge.gov.uk/trees-for-babies](http://cambridge.gov.uk/trees-for-babies) for your tree.
- **Begun court proceedings against illegal moorers on Riverside and on the Commons** so that those boaters who are licensed or regulated, and play by the rules, get fair treatment. We also stepped in to paint the 700 metres of county-maintained Riverside fence which was an eyesore.



## Tackling domestic violence - *an update:*

On taking control of the council, Labour made tackling domestic violence/abuse a strategic priority. As a result of our work and commitment **we attained 'White Ribbon Status' for the council.**



At a recent conference in the Guildhall, survivors of domestic violence and service providers were brought together to examine what help works for victims. This pioneering event was hailed a great success by both survivors and professionals, with a report now due within the year.

## Dealing with housing pressures - *your Labour council has:*

- **Put protecting services for vulnerable tenants at the heart of our housing policy.** The Tory government's decision to go back on our council tenants' rent settlement will result in a £15m loss over the next 4 years.
- **Commissioned a study into the real student accommodation need in Cambridge** as a result of the increasing number of speculative student housing applications by developers wanting to cut new building of family housing and affordable homes.
- **Promised to review how viability assessments are increasingly being put forward** by developers to reduce the amount of affordable housing on sites. We are looking into how these are dealt with to ensure maximum public accountability and transparency.



For the last two years we have worked on transforming how Cambridge is cleaned after inheriting a culture of inaction from the Lib Dems.

## A cleaner Cambridge, putting residents first - *Labour has:*

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In the last year issued a record number of fixed penalty notices for littering and dog fouling. At one stage under the last Lib Dem council no dog owner was fined in 5 years. **Litter fines under Labour have risen sixfold** with the money from fines invested in volunteer clean-ups and equipment.



Employed an additional dog warden and started a successful dog fouling 'Clean it up' poster campaign. We have also provided extra dog fouling signs for every ward in Cambridge. We also doubled the enforcement team dealing with environmental crimes, like fly-tipping, a policy the Lib Dems did not back.



Introduced 'Environment Reports' at Area Committees, letting residents now influence how we clean our city. We also now release our main environmental figures and actions.



Conducted the biggest expansions in the number of new litter, park and dog bins for years, with allocations per ward, and put recycling bins next to litter bins where possible.



Introduced 'ward walkabouts' where residents, residents' associations and/or councillors can request our cleaning officers join them for a site visit of any problematic areas.



Introduced 'ward blitzes' where each ward now gets a deep clean on top of regular cleaning.



Devolved extra cleaning powers to each ward councillor, regardless of party, to tackle issues more quickly, removing excuses. We also recruited an organiser to direct our volunteers, and help residents co-ordinate their own campaigns.



Increased the rate at which parks are cleaned in the summer by taking on extra litter pickers.



Kept the council's pest control team, in the face of Lib Dem opposition, so the service is still free for any resident.



Doubled the number of 'Community Clear-Out Days', working alongside voluntary organisations to remove bulky waste and engage with our communities.

*Our second annual report is funded by donations from all Labour councillors*