



**Cambridge
Liberal Democrats
Election Platform 2026**
Support our vision for Cambridge



**TWO VITAL
YEARS**



**The Liberal Democrat
plan for the final
two years of
Cambridge City
Council.**

Vote Lib Dem on May 7th

Cambridge Liberal Democrats



Election Platform 2026

The city council will cease to exist in 2 years' time, to be replaced by a new all-purpose council serving a wider area around Cambridge.

Before then there is important work to be done.

It will not be accomplished either by striking easy postures or by being shackled to a government and MP that does not have our area's best interests at heart.

The Liberal Democrat agenda for this special final period reflects years of consistent argument with an increasingly chaotic Labour council that disappointed - and has now run out of steam.



Read on for our plans for our city...

Getting back on track



Under Labour, the City Council has lost its grip on what makes for people's everyday experience of the city.

Fly tipping has soared as services to clean it up and penalise the culprits have been slashed. Public toilets have been closed. Council homes have been left poorly maintained with damp and mould left untreated for far too long. The peace is broken by noisy joy riders around the city, with nothing done despite warm words.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Restore funding for the cleaning of streets and open spaces and enforcement patrols, re-open public toilets and reform council house maintenance
- Introduce tough new performance standards to monitor cleanliness of the city
- Consult on citywide controls against noisy and dangerous joy riding, empowering the Police to take action and press for better regulation and policing of e-scooters and e-mopeds
- Press for new measures to control Airbnb-type short-stay accommodation and poor quality, unregulated shared housing



Safeguarding the health of our high streets



Needs from shopping centres are changing, but the value of the social and amenity hub of the city centre and our neighbourhood shopping parades is a constant.

We want to ensure they remain attractive and relevant to all, and places where good businesses can prosper.

Lib Dem councillors have shown they are the only ones to care.

We will:

- Take our lead from residents and local traders in supporting the nurturing and revitalisation of neighbourhood centres across the city.
- Initiate a project to develop, with residents, businesses and landlords, a vision for a much more inclusive city centre
- Invest in the city centre to improve the market square, the Corn Exchange and the Guildhall, increasing usage, accessibility to all and reducing waste and energy - but only in a way that pays back to local people by subsidising council services



Shaping Cambridge's Future



The need for growth in our area is felt in high housing costs, poor housing conditions, long-distance commuting and an unstable labour market for organisations doing good in the world.

We have a housing market tilted to sellers and landlords by shortage and this impacts both existing residents *and* people coming to work here – particularly young people.

This would get worse by failing to respond to growth pressure or it could get better, fairer and more sustainable by shaping it.

We are on the side of shaping it - and key decisions will be taken in the next 2 years.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Take the area's ambitious new local plan through to adoption, providing sustainably for new homes, including 'affordable' homes, and jobs
- Seek central government involvement in addressing the blockers to good growth, mainly in advance investment in enabling infrastructure and skills – water, energy, transport, community amenities, schools and NHS capacity
- Fight the outrageous Labour plan to rob our local councils of their planning powers, with which locally elected representatives work for local support in making change
- Seek to restore the abandoned plan to redevelop North-East Cambridge with the new Hartree quarter, for which the government pulled the funding last year
- Bid for funding to build new social housing

Ensuring the new unitary council serves the city well



For many years we have argued for a simpler system of local government in our area and we welcome the change to single multi-purpose council in 2 years' time.

It will cover a wider area around the city, reflecting that paths between homes, workplaces and amenities criss-cross our very tight city boundary, underlying much shared interest.

It will be the city council's role to pass forward its responsibilities into the new unitary council in good shape.

We will:

- Support the integration of council services to maintain their effectiveness and reduce their cost, exploit new opportunities for improvement, and ensure simplicity, accessibility and responsiveness
- Work to ensure appropriate ways of managing council services that are currently only provided within the urban area – especially street cleaning and public open spaces, community, cultural and sports amenities
- Argue for new means of ensuring neighbourhood voice within the new, larger council
- Ensure that Cambridge's 800 year-old mayoralty and civic identity are carried forward into the new council

Our Liberal Democrat approach is rooted in our vision for Cambridge. In the remaining 2 year period of the city council, our agenda is focused on what can be done and what must be done to secure the services residents expect but aren't getting and the thriving, inclusive community we all need for the future.

The Liberal Democrat City Vision

The future is created through many decisions by lots of people over a long period of time. So beyond our immediate agenda, this is the compass for our leadership. It is an open and inclusive vision. It works with the grain of Cambridge people, both longstanding and newly arrived. It is about building a steadily better shared future, for this very special place.



The Cambridge we would like to see...

A global power for good...

Projecting its **ideas, innovation and humanity** round the world, renewing our connections with **Europe and beyond** and breaking down barriers in the **local community** to share out its opportunities.



An evolving city...

Providing homes for people in all walks of life, embedding **sustainability with growth** and **respecting nature** and the limitation of its resources while blending the best of old and new.

Prizing the wellbeing of its people...

With green and social space, a **clean and healthy environment**, equal access to arts and recreation, **quality public services**, neighbourhood amenities, and **'voice' in the community**.



Living lightly on the planet...

With less traffic and **more public and active transport**, easy to adopt a **low waste, low carbon** lifestyle and a leader in the **fight against climate change** and for biodiversity.

A generous city...

Where people are **free and safe to be who they are** and live their lives their own way; they can **come together as a community** and there is **kindness** to those suffering disadvantage.



Vote Lib Dem on May 7th to help us build a better Cambridge.



If you agree with our vision for our city:

Liberal DEMOCRATS

