

Vote **Liberal Democrat** on May 7th for a:

- A fair Local Plan
- Listening to you, strengthening communities
- Homes for local people
- Your money and the local economy
- Protecting our environment

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



**Guildford Borough Council Liberal Democrat
Manifesto May 2015**

A Fair Local Plan

Liberal Democrat councillors aim to develop a fair Local Plan to raise the quality of life for all residents: to improve urban areas, enhance villages, reduce traffic congestion and improve the infrastructure for all communities.

A Liberal Democrat Local Plan will set a target for extra homes which meets the needs of our communities and supports our businesses to provide jobs for all. A fair Local Plan will protect all our communities from the threat of over-development. It will protect green space in urban areas, protect the character of our villages, and ensure proportionate development to meet local housing need without destroying our environment.

Liberal Democrats will protect our precious Green Belt and countryside. We will always promote Brownfield sites first, and preserve Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Green Belt boundaries will only be altered where exceptional circumstances can be clearly demonstrated. Any expansion of village boundaries should be small-scale and proportionate to the size of the existing community with minimal encroachment into the countryside.

The viability of supporting infrastructure must be key to any development and must include good public transport, provide an adequate road system (including access to railway stations), and good access to schools, health services, shops, leisure facilities and employment opportunities.

As always, Liberal Democrat councillors will not be whipped on the Local Plan and will remain free to stand up for their communities whether urban or rural.

Listening to you, strengthening communities

We will:

- Work closely with residents, community organisations and Parish Councils to make sure the Council listens and values local views.
- Support residents to set up Neighbourhood Panels in urban areas that want them, to give the area a stronger voice.
- Tell all residents what's going on at the Council and how it will affect their communities.
- Make sure that people know what's happening with the Local Plan, how it could affect their lives and that their views will make a difference to it.
- Support the development of Neighbourhood Plans for villages and urban areas by working with Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Panels, to give communities a say in shaping their own futures.
- Support devolved funding to Neighbourhood Panels and Parish Councils to spend on local priorities.
- Reform the Council's Executive and committee structure to make sure that all local councillors have a stronger voice in the decisions that affect their communities.
- Give help to local communities who wish to set up lunch clubs and community cafés.
- Improve services and activities for young people by employing specialist Sport, Play, Arts and Youth Officers to support work in local communities.
- Consult young people through Community Youth Panels to support their needs and activities with safe meeting places.

Homes for Local People

We will:

- Strive to ensure all housing developments include at least 40% affordable homes for rent from the Council or a housing association, or for shared-ownership.
- Build and retain ownership of our own Council-owned social housing across the borough where it's needed.
- Drive forward the Slyfield regeneration project to build 1,000 new homes on Brownfield land.
- Support the creation of 'Home Zones' in residential areas with safer streets and priority for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Support the planning policy for rural exception sites, providing affordable homes in the villages for local people.
- Support the Council's accreditation scheme for landlords and letting agents of houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) to improve the quality of life for tenants and neighbours of shared homes.
- Promote 20 mph speed limits on suitable residential roads across the borough, and on roads near schools.
- Require all new housing developments outside the town centre to provide sufficient on-site parking.
- Ensure that no on-street parking permits are allocated to new urban housing developments which fail to provide sufficient on-site parking, and require the developers to provide on-site 'car share' cars.
- Make sure new housing developments provide accessible green space and play areas.

Your Money and the Local Economy

We will:

- Keep council tax down and spend your money wisely.
- Listen to your priorities for Council services.
- Stop the Tory waste of your money.
- Monitor the Council's use of consultants to make sure they are value for money.
- Make sure that communities where new homes are built directly will benefit from the Government's 'New Homes Bonus' (over £1.7 million for Guildford this year).
- Make sure that all council employees are paid the living wage and require council contractors to pay their staff the living wage under all new contracts.
- Support a scheme to create opportunities for local people to learn, train and work as apprentices and paid interns within council enterprises and offices.
- Support communities to set up social enterprises where they are meeting a local need for training and employment.
- Engage with businesses to help them expand and thrive.
- Encourage council contractors and local businesses in general to create more apprenticeships.
- Champion the arts, culture and heritage across the borough to support local and voluntary groups, encourage involvement by young people, and maintain Guildford's tourist and visitor economy.

Protecting Our Environment

We will:

- Maintain and improve council services for recycling, rubbish collection and street cleaning in all parts of the borough.
- Lead the way in supporting creative green initiatives such as district heating schemes and solar power, and requiring high environmental standards for new buildings.
- Support the creation of mini-allotments and community gardens as well as encouraging 'guerilla gardening'.
- Maintain and improve our parks, playgrounds, sports facilities and open spaces to a high standard across the borough.
- Support environmental improvements and public access along the River Wey to make sure everyone can enjoy our river.
- Support sustainable transport with improved and extended services at Park & Ride sites, including a new site in North Guildford and Sunday opening.
- Campaign for increased, improved and reliable bus services which are better integrated with other public transport.
- Campaign for more, safer cycling routes everywhere and increase provision of secure parking for cyclists.
- Press for the building of new railway stations and for upgrades to the passenger facilities at the main Guildford station.
- Introduce a fair licensing policy for taxis to improve working conditions for taxi drivers, create pressure to reduce prices and ensure good taxi services for customers.
- Campaign for car share schemes across the borough.