

MAKING SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL COMPETENT AND CARING - THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR SURREY 2009-2013

OUR APPROACH

Liberal Democrats fight to protect and improve our environment and services for the benefit of Surrey residents. We also seek to ensure that Surrey County Council provides value for money in everything that it does.

County Lib Dem leader **Hazel Watson** says, "We are very lucky to live in such a beautiful area, and it is our aim to ensure that it remains so. At the same time, it is vital that the less fortunate in our society are given the help they need, in the way they need it, to attain a decent standard of living."

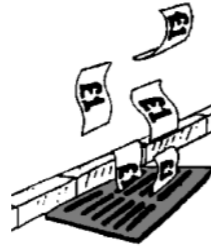
OUR AIMS

The Liberal Democrats seek:

- to stop the wasteful use of resources,
- to obtain better value for money,
- to ensure better use of resources by Surrey County Council.

Examples of money being wasted include:

- consultants and agency staff,
- out-of-county child placements,
- the road maintenance contract,
- the failed move of County Hall,
- the lack of progress in co-ordinating school and public transport.



The Liberal Democrats will also campaign for more external funding for Surrey, such as from the European Union, to help address the legacy of under-investment by Surrey County Council.

HIGHWAYS

- Regular essential road maintenance,
- Re-tender the road maintenance contract,
- Better road repairs giving value for money,
- Prevent over-charging,
- Safer roads, pavements and cycle tracks,
- Improve lighting where this is needed for safety,
- Reduce light pollution from street lights.



TRANSPORT

- More public transport,
- Better rail services,
- Coordinated bus services,
- Work with other organisations to increase community transport, such as dial-a-ride and taxi voucher schemes,
- Oppose airport expansion and new motorways.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- More housing initiatives so local young people can remain in Surrey,
- Use spare county council land for key worker housing,
- Shared equity schemes to help recruit and retain key workers, such as teachers, social workers and youth workers.



THE LIB DEM TOP PRIORITIES – THE SIX TO FIX

1. Improve the roads and pavements,
2. More help for old people, vulnerable children, disabled people and carers,
3. More activities for young people,
4. Protect the environment,
5. Improve and protect public transport,
6. Stop Surrey County Council wasting money.

CHILDREN

- Match school places with local needs,
- Modernise school buildings,
- Facilities for children with special needs,
- Help children and families with problems,
- Raise school standards so each child can achieve their full potential.



YOUNG PEOPLE

- Respond to young people's wishes,
- Local control of youth services,
- Open youth centres in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays,
- No more youth centre closures, or reduced facilities,
- Provide transport to youth facilities,
- Youth vans to bring youth workers to young people in villages,
- Youth cafes and drop-in centres for young people in town centres,
- Improve the spread of information about activities for young people,
- Improve leisure facilities by sharing resources with District and Borough Councils and voluntary organisations.



VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- Match care and support to people's needs,
- Care charges that are fair and reasonable,
- More help for older people,
- More support for vulnerable children,
- More help for disabled people,
- Consider the carers - provide respite care.



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Energy efficiency in all Council buildings,
- Conserve our villages, Green Belt and townscapes,
- More flood prevention schemes,
- Plan ahead for the effects of climate change,
- Sign up to the Climate Change Declaration,
- Incentives to the Borough and District Councils to improve waste reduction and recycling,
- County-wide recycling of organic waste,
- Improve Council tips to increase recycling,
- Dispose of any remaining waste in the most environmentally friendly way possible,
- Avoid mass-burn incineration.



CRIME AND DISORDER

- Tackle anti-social behaviour,
- More community-based policing,
- Make the Police Authority more accountable.



LOCAL SERVICES

- Protect local libraries, health services, Post Offices, Police Stations and Adult Education,
- Devolve more decisions to the local level,
- Improve the viability of the local economy by supporting local businesses,
- Make voluntary organisations more sustainable through a three year rolling cycle of funding.



INFORM AND INVOLVE LOCAL PEOPLE

- Improve the speed and quality of the Council's response to the public,
- Allow the public to speak in open sessions at County Council meetings,
- Broadcast public meetings via the internet by using webcams,
- Take as many decisions as possible locally,
- Involve local people in decisions about spending in their local area,
- End Tory centralisation and secrecy by opening as many committee meetings as possible to the public,
- Improve the handling of complaints,
- Decide a new site for County Hall within Surrey.

