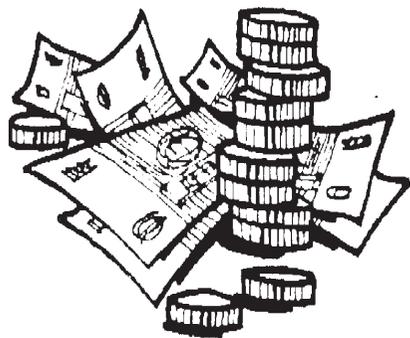


The Liberal Democrat Programme of Action for Surrey 2005 - 2009

KEEPING COUNCIL TAX DOWN

- In 2003/04 the Council spent:
 - more than £16m on consultants
 - over £15m on agency staff
 - in excess of £6m on energy bills
 - around £1m on publications.
- Liberal Democrats have proposed substantial reductions in spending on consultants and communications that were rejected by the Tories at the 2005/06 budget setting.
- Review all Surrey spending to ensure value for money.
- Thorough review of contracts with a view to saving money.
- Reduce managerial reorganisation.
- Liberal Democrats want to abolish Council Tax and replace it with a fairer system based on ability to pay.

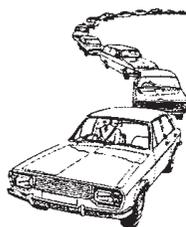


ROAD REPAIRS

- Increase investment in road maintenance until Surrey roads reach a reasonable standard.
- Improve footways and cycleways to make them safer.
- Improve lighting where needed to make streets safer and reduce light pollution.

TRANSPORT

- Increase and co-ordinate bus services and other public transport to improve the service and reduce traffic congestion.
- Consult the public to find out the need for public transport in each community.
- Increase community transport (e.g. dial-a-ride and taxi voucher schemes) by working with other organisations.
- Work with schools and employers to implement travel plans to cut car journeys.
- Oppose government plans to remove the right to free school transport for entitled children.



LIBRARIES

- Keep libraries in public ownership and oppose any proposal for privatisation.
- Protect local libraries from closure.
- Increase the number of books available at Surrey's libraries.

INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE

- Allow the public to speak in open sessions at County Council meetings.
- Increase local decision-making.
- Involve local people in decisions about spending money in their local area.
- End Tory centralisation and secrecy.

YOUNG PEOPLE



- Ensure County Council youth centres are fully utilised for young people and open when they are most needed, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Provide youth vans to bring youth workers to young people in our villages.
- Provide more drop-in centres for young people in town centres.
- Provide transport for young people to enable them to get to and from facilities in Surrey's towns.
- Improve information about activities for young people.

CHILDREN

- Protect school budgets.
- Ensure high educational standards.
- Closely monitor Surrey's school support services (privatised by the Tories).
- Provide more facilities within Surrey for special needs children to reduce the high cost of places outside the county.
- More support for children and families with problems.

RECYCLING, WASTE & ENERGY

- Encourage waste and energy reduction and recycling through example, education and by working with boroughs and districts.
- Dispose of remaining waste in the most environmentally friendly way possible.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PLANNING

- Increase the target for affordable new housing from 40% to 50% to enable local young people to remain in Surrey.
- Make appropriate surplus Surrey County Council land available for key worker housing.
- Increase housing initiatives by the County Council such as shared equity, loans and rent subsidy to enable the Council to recruit and retain key workers such as teachers, social workers and youth workers.
- Discourage new airport and motorway development within the South East.
- Conserve our villages, green belt and townscapes.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- Improve provision to protect vulnerable children and adults.
- Improve care facilities for our elderly and others in need.
- Ensure elderly people have the shortest possible wait in hospital before moving to a residential home.
- Provide:
 - more support for carers.
 - help at home for frail people.
 - support for people with learning disabilities to live independently.
 - support for people with mental illness.



CRIME AND DISORDER

- Tackle anti-social behaviour by working with the police and boroughs and districts.
- Strengthen support for the community safety strategy.