

Our manifesto

for the local elections on 2 May

1

We believe your vote should always make a difference.

We will continue to promote and support the concept of proportional representation at both national and local levels to ensure democratic diversity. Any local authority with a huge majority of any party reduces the challenge to the party in power as this is not provided by their own backbenchers.

4

We will tackle homelessness.

We will seek to use powers now available to the Council to invest more in direct provision of public housing to address some of the problems of homelessness that are evident in our district.

2

We demand a genuine end to austerity.

To press central Government to end the austerity that has reduced local government funding to levels that make providing essential services extremely difficult. We will seek to restore some of the more important service levels that the current council has cut.

5

We will work with the NHS to build a health and social care system that really works.

In the public health sector, to work closely with the NHS to provide efficient use of limited funding; to work with all stakeholders to promote a joined-up thinking approach to develop and provide solutions for many of the issues around adult social care.

3

We will make sure new housing works for everyone, not just developers

To ensure that new large private housing developments are only approved where there are guaranteed infrastructure contributions and close to the draft Local Plan's stated ambition of 30% affordable housing.

6

We will equip the police to keep us safe.

To support efforts to provide Central Bedfordshire with fair funding for its police service.

7

We will invest more in our schools and protect our education system.

Many of our schools are underfunded and children's educations can suffer as a result despite the best efforts of our dedicated teachers. Conservative funding cuts mean that some schools are struggling to fund basic supplies and teachers are being put under impossible pressures. We believe that every child deserves a decent education. We want to invest more in our schools, pay teachers fairly for the work they do and move towards a broad and balanced curriculum which equips every young person with the skills they need to get on in life.

To take back control of our education system within national policy to ensure the very best education for our young people.

8

We strongly support new rail links for Central Bedfordshire.

To strongly support the East-West rail project and lobby for earliest completion whilst keeping a close eye on all aspects to ensure maximum benefit to Central Bedfordshire with minimum impact on the environment.

10

We will protect your bin collections.

We will oppose any attempt to extend the refuse collection period to three weeks and will maintain the green waste collection as a free service.

9

We will make sure our environment is protected as the government plans and builds new road links.

To note the ongoing development of proposals for the Cambridge-Oxford expressway while maintaining a watchful eye on the possible negative effects of accompanying proposed house building. We support Route C as the least worst option for the environment.

11

We'll invest in public transport and make sure it serves the whole of Central Bedfordshire.

We will aim to protect and where financially viable, extend supported public transport. Our rural bus services are a particular concern that we would wish to improve.



**Demand better for Central Bedfordshire.
Vote Liberal Democrat on Thursday 2 May.**

www.cbedslibdems.org.uk