

***CALDERDALE
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS***



**POLICY MANIFESTO
FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS
2008**



YOUR LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCIL WILL BE

CARING and FAIR

On Affordable Housing: we want to see some real action, for example:

- Tackling Calderdale;s 2,500 empty homes
- Increasing the proportion of affordable housing required on larger developments: in Calderdale, it's currently 20% of properties. In LibDem controlled South Shropshire, it's 50 % !
- Measures must be put in place to ensure that affordable housing stays affordable for ever.

For older people: we want the quality of services to improve:

- Support for older people to buy the care **they** want
- **Better training** for care staff
- **Better support** for those with medium care needs
- We want older people to stay in their homes for longer through **better home care**

For younger people: we want to provide more services:

- **Better play areas** for children
- **Local Children's Centres** to become the local focus for families with children
- **More activities and facilities** for young people

LOCAL and LISTENING

Area Forums and Town/Parish Councils: We want there to be more power and involvement of local people in Calderdale Council:

- New **Town or Parish Councils** for those areas that want them,
- Local (Area) forums with their own budget where local people can make decisions about **their** area;
- Real **consultation** with local people **before** decisions are made
- **Encourage more young people** to get involved in their community through the Youth Parliament and Youth Forums;

Local Council services: we want more local services for everyone:

- More **Customer First** offices so Council services can be delivered as close as possible to where people live;
- **Evening Classes** and other activities for adults in local areas brought back – these have almost disappeared in recent years;
- **Better library** and leisure facilities in local areas;
- More **street wardens** to help keep neighbourhoods safe

GREEN AND CLEAN

Waste and recycling: We want this to be given a higher priority and would promote our “Green Team” to co-ordinate action, especially:

- More ambitious targets for **reduced waste and increased recycling** (say, 50% in 2 years);
- More **local recycling centres**;
- More **street cleaning** to restore pride in our neighbourhoods;
- Review the recent decision on **wheelie bins** as soon as possible

Transport and parking: There are key, difficult issues which we want to sort out:

- **Better public transport** and encouragement of car sharing;
- **Co-ordination of Bus and train services** and integration with other forms of transport eg. A free bus service between Halifax train and bus stations;
- **Parking problems** sorted out across Calderdale: these inconvenience the public and damage local businesses;

Energy: The Council should lead the way locally and give more help to people, by

- **More efficient use of energy** in Council Offices and vehicles;
- **Council tax reductions** for energy-efficient households.

EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT

Getting things done: This is now a long-standing concern for LibDems:

- **No more delays** on big projects like the Shay and Broad Street in Halifax, Todmorden market and swimming pools for Brighouse, Elland and Sowerby Brigde

Council tax: We must manage our income and budgets to best advantage:

- Keep **Council tax as low as possible** whilst maintaining essential services;
- Constantly looking for **efficiency savings**;
- Continue to campaign for **Council tax to be replaced** by a fairer Local Income Tax based on people's ability to pay;

Control of budgets, especially:

- Stop the **spiraling costs** of projects like the new Pupil Referral Unit at Wellesley Park and Hebden Bridge library