

Report to Parish Council

Dear Residents,

Over the next month the County Council will be finalising the most radical change to local services which will affect us all. I have set out below what I think should be our priorities; I would like to hear your views.

Supporting and protecting people when they need it most

The Council will provide a safety net for vulnerable people until they can take back control of their own lives. We will work to keep children and families safe at home, whilst providing the right care at the right time for those children and young people for whom Local Authority care is the right decision. We'll help older people and those suffering ill health or disability to get the care they want and need – helping people look after themselves in their own homes for longer, without the need for long-term care. Our support will be targeted to those most in need and where we do provide support, it will be to help people towards independence.

Helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities

We want people to be in control of their own lives, as individuals and as part of their community. We'll promote choice through our services to help people choose the right options for them. We want people to step up and be more active in their local community so we'll work to remove the barriers that stop people getting involved. We want everyone to enjoy the best that Cambridgeshire has to offer. We have a strong belief in fairness. Therefore, we'll target our services at those people who need extra help to make the most of living in our communities.

Developing our local economy for the benefit of all

We will help people to access the support they need to get the jobs being created in Cambridgeshire – supporting children and young people to stay in learning and providing a range of options for adults. Across the county, we'll ensure that people can travel safely able to access economic opportunities. We'll continue to provide the services that people use every day – like street lighting, dealing with waste maintaining our roads so they are safe - as much as we can within financial constraints.

How will we work?

- **Being genuinely local council** – we want to be a genuinely local council, handing power for decision making, budgets and service provision to the most local level possible.
- **Making sure the right services are provided, in the right way** – we'll only provide services directly when it's clearly better value for the taxpayer that we do it ourselves. We will work with partners, to make sure the best placed organisation provides services that are value for money. We will minimise the energy we use as an organisation and ensure services are provided in a sustainable way.
- **Investing in prevention** – we'll focus on services that help people early on – increasing their independence and choice and helping them to help themselves. This will improve peoples' quality of life and reduce their reliance on public services whilst also reducing cost.
- **Working together** – we want to continue to work in partnership with other organisations to get the best possible value for money. We want to go further and identify more opportunities, sharing services and doing things together where it's more efficient to do so.

John Reynolds Jan 2011