

COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE FROM JAMES PALMER

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE BENEFITS FROM RECORD LEVELS OF INVESTMENT FOLLOWING CREATION OF MAYORAL LED AUTHORITY



Above: No-one has worked harder than local boy James Palmer to get Soham Railway Station reopened. Becoming Mayor has given James the ability to really move the project forward

Since the election of James Palmer as Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire has benefited from record levels of investment. From the start, James has been determined to **overhaul transport infrastructure** and to **invest in housing opportunities for young people**, and that is exactly what he is doing here in East Cambs.

TRANSPORT RECORD OF DELIVERY

- **Ely Southern bypass delivered:** When he was Leader of East Cambs District Council, James Palmer led the Council's campaign for the new road which opened in October last year. The Combined Authority, led by James, contributed £22m to the scheme
- **Eight-car trains between Cambridge and Kings Lynn agreed:** James has led the campaign to end commuter misery on this busy line. In early February James met with the Rail Minister to insist that eight-car trains be introduced between Cambridge and Kings Lynn. On 14th February it was announced that it would happen. **Work will begin in October this year**

WHEELS IN MOTION!

- **Soham train station becoming a reality:** When elected as Mayor, James was informed by Network Rail that the station wouldn't be open by 2022. James took control of the project, ensured that it was fully funded and has taken nine months off the expected timeline. **Soham Railway Station is scheduled to open by summer 2021**
- **A10 plans advanced:** Mayor Palmer has significantly moved forward plans to dual the A10 between Ely and Cambridge. In March the Combined Authority commissioned a special study which will look in detail at dualling the entirety of the A10 between Ely and Cambridge.

HOUSING

RECORD OF DELIVERY

- **Landmark loan made for Haddenham Community Land Trust (CLT):** In November 2018 the Combined Authority made a £6.5m loan to the District Council's company, East Cambs Trading Company, to provide **54 new homes in Haddenham, 19 of which will be genuinely affordable, and reserved for local working people with ties to the village**
- **Loan provided to convert 88 derelict Ely properties into 92 new homes:** Last November the Combined Authority also made a loan of £24m to East Cambs Trading Company to convert the 88 derelict properties at the Ely MoD site near the Princess of Wales Hospital into 92 new homes, 15 of which will be retained in a CLT. The land at the site is also intended to be developed (subject to planning) and has the potential to deliver up to 62 new homes, including 30% affordable homes. **All the affordable homes on the site will be available at genuinely affordable prices, including shared equity options, and reserved for local working people**



Above: James at the Public Exhibition talking to East Cambs Councillors about the design of Soham Railway Station, which includes a new road roundabout



Above: Charles Roberts, Leader of ECDC and James Palmer at the MoD Princess of Wales housing site in Ely

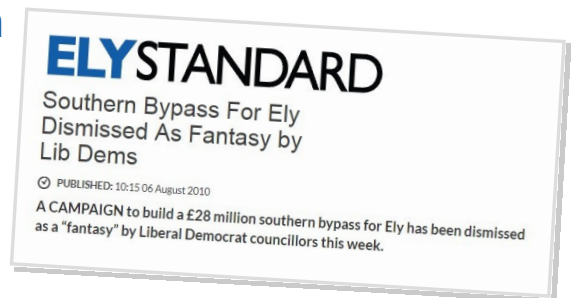
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LOCAL LIB DEMS HAVE A RECORD OF OPPOSING THE THINGS THAT EAST CAMBS NEEDS THE MOST

Since the creation of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), the local Lib Dems have put their efforts and resources into a relentlessly negative campaign about its work and its people. The Authority is new, it is getting established, the infrastructure projects that it is working on require a great deal of preparatory work; much of that work is now beginning to pay off. East Cambs Conservatives have come under attack from the Lib Dems across Cambridgeshire for the CPCA being too East Cambs centric, but the truth is that East Cambs District Council, led by Conservatives, has been able to put forward 'shovel ready' schemes to CPCA to benefit East Cambs residents - [new roads, new genuinely affordable housing in community led schemes](#).

Local Lib Dems opposed the Ely Southern bypass and plans to dual the A10

- **Lib Dems called Ely southern bypass plans a "fantasy"**: In 2010 when local Conservatives started the campaign for the much-needed Ely southern bypass, local Lib Dems dismissed the plans as a "fantasy". At the time, a leading Liberal Democrat in Ely stated, "*It is time Conservative Councillors stopped dreaming and seriously examined alternatives to the bypass.*"
- **Lib Dem Mayoral candidate opposed dualling the A10**: The Lib Dem Mayoral candidate for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough opposed plans to dual the A10 during his campaign



Local Lib Dems voted against schemes to increase the amount of affordable housing for local people in East Cambridgeshire

- **Local Lib Dems voted against a proposal to make £40m available for affordable housing in East Cambs**: Last June, one of the first actions by the new local Lib Dem representative on the Combined Authority was to vote against a £40m loan which will bring forward over 500 affordable homes for local people in East Cambs - it is a revolving fund, with the loan being regularly repaid and available to new affordable housing schemes. Thanks to Conservatives the motion was passed and the funding will therefore be available for much needed affordable homes in our district
- **Local Lib Dems voted against the £24m loan to convert 88 derelict properties at Ely MoD site into 92 new homes**: Last November the local Lib Dem representative on the Combined Authority voted against the £24m loan to convert the derelict properties at Ely MoD site into 92 new homes, including affordable homes for local working people with ties to the area

Look at the Lib Dems' record on Council Tax

- **60% Council Tax increase**: The Last time the Lib Dems were in charge at East Cambs District Council in 2002/3 they increased Council Tax by 60.1%
- **124% Council Tax increase**: Back in 1998 when the Lib Dems were the largest party at East Cambs District Council, Council Tax increased by 124%

East Cambs needs your support to get things done!

Please VOTE on 2nd May
Please VOTE CONSERVATIVE

Investing in Cambridgeshire

 Conservatives