



## Stratford Liberal Democrats Press Release

### Conservative inaction is penalising council taxpayers, say Lib Dems

As neighbouring Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils announce savings of £1.2 million through the creation of a single management team, Liberal Democrats in Stratford are challenging the Conservatives over why similar savings are not being achieved for Council taxpayers in Stratford District.

The announcements were made by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council last week and involve the creation of a single management team structure as part of a shared services programme between the two Councils. Bromsgrove Borough Council stated, 'The creation of this single team will lead to savings of £1.2 million over the transition period resulting in an annual saving of £500,000'.

'For over two years now we have been pressing the Conservatives to save money by working more closely with other local Councils and public bodies,' said Councillor Peter Moore, Deputy Leader of Stratford District Council's Liberal Democrats. 'Redditch and Bromsgrove have shown what can be done by combining roles and reducing the number of senior managers and other Councils are doing the same'.

'Under the Conservatives Stratford District Council's council tax has more than doubled since they took control in 2000. Given a choice between cutting senior management roles or cutting services, the Conservatives are going for services – as we've just seen at the Council's Area office in Shipston'.

'These are difficult times for everyone. Why should Council tax keep going up when there are sensible ways of controlling spending – as our neighbours have shown. We're going to keep on raising this until the Conservatives stop dragging their feet and we will be bringing it up yet again at the next District Council meeting in October'.

#### **Notes:**

1. See press releases from Bromsgrove District Council (17<sup>th</sup> September) and Redditch Borough Council (18<sup>th</sup> September) for details of savings.
2. The Liberal Democrats will be putting forward a motion at the next Stratford District Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October instructing the Conservative Cabinet to seek out urgently substantial cost savings through collaboration with other local Councils and public bodies.
3. When Council mergers were considered in 2006 Warwickshire County Council worked on the savings that could be made through closer working between Councils. Despite two Freedom of Information requests from Cllr Peter Moore the County Council is still refusing to make public the savings it believes were possible.

#### **More information:**

Cllr Peter Moore: Monday morning 01789 269630, rest of week on 07891675973 (mobile) or contact through 01202 432506.

Cllr Hazel Wright 01527 852899