

UPDATE, DECEMBER 2017

HEATON GREENS



Andrew Gray



Andrew Gray came a strong second in this year's South Heaton by-election, with 27% of the vote.

TAKING ACTION FOR A SAFER SCHOOL CROSSING

Following the withdrawal of the school crossing patrol for Chillingham Road Primary School, residents raised safety concerns for children crossing at Meldon Terrace. The long wait for the "green man" to appear was tempting children to run across too soon.

Andrew asked the council to look into this and suggested that 'smart' traffic signals could allow more frequent pedestrian crossings at peak school times. As a result, the Highways department confirmed this was possible and have shortened the wait for the "green man" at peak times so that children can cross safely.

GREEN BUDGETS WOULD PROTECT LOCAL SERVICES AND HIGH STREETS

PREVIOUS GREEN PARTY BUDGET RESPONSES

A Green budget for the city would give priority to spending within the neighbourhoods.

Andrew has already called on the Council to put local services and the high street at the heart of its Budget setting for Heaton. In the last round of consultation he called for a budget that:

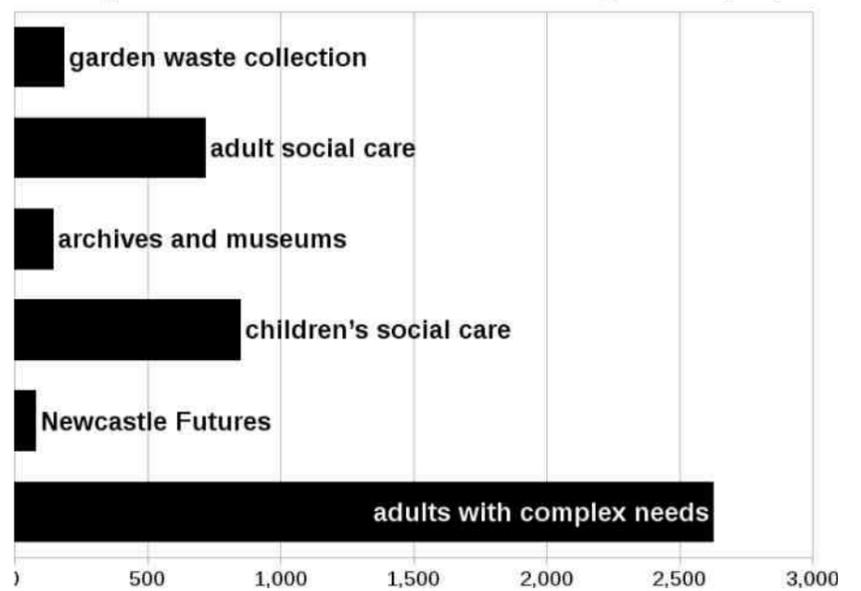
- Supports local services where people live
- Invests in high streets to increase local spending, local job creation and boost the local economy
- Reduces the risk of 'boom and bust' if our city's economy is dependent on a few big city centre chain stores
- Supports community groups and builds more resilient neighbourhoods.

The Green Party budget response last year called on the Council to establish its own energy company to cut fuel bills and keep the money within the local economy. Community renewable energy schemes or waste anaerobic digestion could be used to generate our own energy.

YOU CAN RESPOND AS WELL

Newcastle Greens are alarmed that new service cuts are being proposed.

Proposed extra service cuts at a glance (£k)



In addition to the services shown in the graph:

- £5.3m of other new cuts are proposed. The Council claims that these will not affect front-line services. But last year's bin dispute showed how constant cuts and reorganisation can undermine our local public services.
- The detailed budget figures reveal other cuts carried forward from last year's budget. For instance, ward budgets support local community groups and projects, but are due to be cut by £217,490 in 2018/19, down 49% from this year.

The council is currently consulting on its 2018/19 budget. You can have your say at <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/budget> or contact Andrew if you would like to talk it through.



INVESTMENT SHOULD SUPPORT LOCAL SERVICES ... NOT DRIVEN BY THE DEMANDS OF CITY CENTRE RETAIL.

The Council only plans to invest £7.8m (12%) of its General Fund capital money in Decent Neighbourhoods. Andrew Gray commented, "Investment should support local services used by all our residents. It's time that the city's budget was not driven by the demands of city centre retail."

ANDREW GRAY WORKING FOR HEATON ALL YEAR ROUND

NEWCASTLE WASTE STRATEGY – KEEPING YOU INVOLVED

In March, the Council set up the Newcastle Waste Commission to develop a new waste strategy for the city. Greens know how much local residents care about the waste and litter on our streets, and have lobbied the Commission to open up its evidence for wider consultation.

We are delighted to report that we have been successful, and have secured a second phase of consultation. The Commission's evidence and initial thinking is available at www.wiseonwaste.co.uk/have-your-say-phase-2, or just contact Andrew for a copy.

GREENS URGE THE COMMISSION TO ENDORSE BEST PRACTICE IN RECYCLING



Andrew gave evidence to the Waste Commission on 30th October. This was the picture from Heaton which he used to sum up what needs to be in the city's waste strategy.

- Food waste should be collected from businesses and households.
- Glass, paper and cardboard need to be separated out at source.
- Local re-use schemes should be better promoted and incentivised with small grants.
- Improving the quality of recycling would save the Council millions of pounds in landfill costs and waste disposal contracts.

THE COUNCIL COULD DO SO MUCH BETTER...

Currently, the rubbish in this picture and thousands of piles like it spoil our back lanes. Without better management of bin collections and back lane dumping, no waste strategy can deliver success. Instead, all this rubbish goes to landfill and residents rightly feel let down. Therefore, Andrew has asked the Waste Commission to include a target in their final report based on residents' surveys, to measure satisfaction with waste management.

The Council's own evidence to the Commission shows that the blue bins only collect 50% of the city's metal, glass, plastic bottles, paper and cardboard. We have proposed a 90% recycling target for these materials.

View our submissions for reducing rubbish and improving recycling at newcastleuponTyne.greenparty.org.uk/waste-strategy.

CONTACT DETAILS

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For news from Newcastle Green Party, to deliver leaflets in your street, or to view copies of previous updates from Heaton Greens, see the website or contact Andrew.

<http://newcastleuponTyne.greenparty.org.uk>

 [facebook.com/NewcastleGreenParty](https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleGreenParty)

 [@NCLGreenParty](https://twitter.com/NCLGreenParty)



METRO FUNDING SUCCESS

In its budget, the government announced a £337m grant for Metro train replacement. This is great news, and follows cross-party campaigning by the Public Transport Users Group. The grant will not be linked to a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) deal, ensuring that the Metro is not burdened with crippling debt repayments over the next 30 years.



Andrew at Chilli Road Metro

Metro users at Chillingham Road will know that we need to get these new trains built as soon as possible. Andrew has written to Nexus to clarify the timetable, as the Treasury Red Book shows that the bulk of the grant won't be paid over until 2021/22.

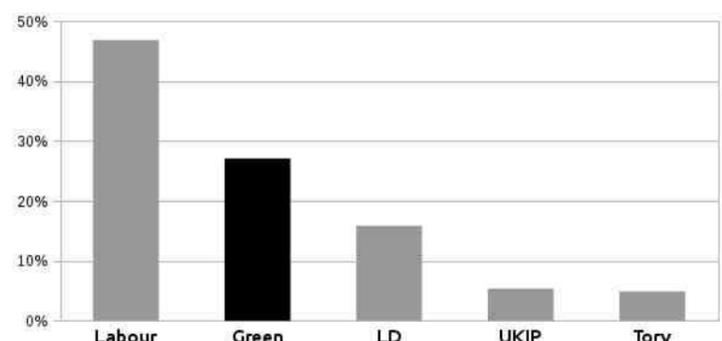
TIME TO END PRIVATE FINANCE DEALS

Andrew has previously set out a three-step plan to end the burden of PFI deals on the city's budget. Crippling PFI deals were negotiated by former Labour and Lib Dem councillors. They have left us with expensive repayments for our libraries and street lighting.

In his 2013 budget submission, Andrew proposed measures to buy out these historic PFI contracts and save local services:

1. Transparency from the Council about all the costs and terms involved
2. Government to take over PFI debts centrally
3. Renegotiation with the companies involved to reduce the debt burden.

How South Heaton voted March 2017



Andrew Gray lives in South Heaton. Here are the latest results. Greens can win here!

HAVE YOU MOVED HOME RECENTLY?

- Make sure your voice is heard!
- Register now to vote in the May 2018 local elections.
- You can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

