



Update from Heaton Greens,  
February 2017:

## Time to Take Back Control of the Budget



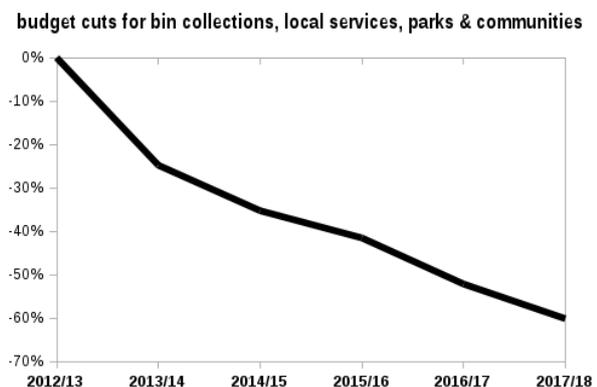
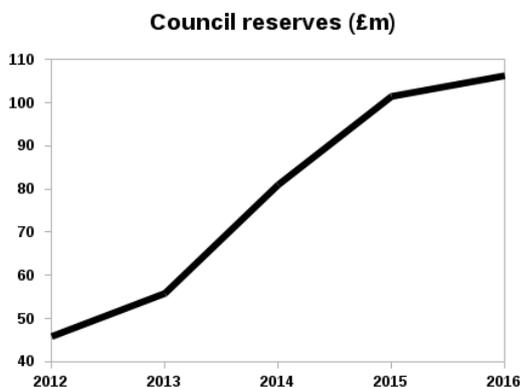
Two years ago, the city's budget cuts proved too much for the East End Community Centre.

This year's budget again promises growth for the city centre, and cuts to local services.

Newcastle Green Party's response calls for fairer devolved funding from government to the city, and from the city centre to the neighbourhoods.

We need to look beyond 2018–2020, and use the Council's growing reserves (see graph below) to transform the city for the long-term. Green proposals would help to cut bills and maintain services.

- Fund a mass insulation and energy efficiency programme. This would make Council and community buildings cheaper to run, and reduce fuel bills for domestic dwellings.
- Establish our own energy company, generating energy from anaerobic digestion of waste or community renewables, selling energy on to local residents, and keeping more money within the local economy.
- Establish or support recycling companies for use of segregated waste streams, especially paper pulp and plastics.



Every year, the Council predicts that reserves will fall. Every year, they rise.  
We were told they would be £16m by 2016: instead they reached £106m.  
Every year, our local and community budgets have been cut.

Heaton Green campaigner Andrew Gray was proud to march for the NHS on Saturday 4th February, with hundreds of campaigners from around the North East.

When Greens led Brighton Council, they protected the “eligibility criteria” for providing social care, ensuring that care continued to be available for those who needed it.

We must not let the NHS and Social Care funding crises destroy our post-war welfare state. That is why Green MP Caroline Lucas has stood up for our health service to be properly funded and to remain in public ownership.  
[www.carolinelucas.com](http://www.carolinelucas.com)



The Labour Council’s proposals rely on “trickle down” economics: investing in the city centre to provide revenue and jobs. Greens know that “trickle down” often becomes “trickle away” — money spent on big business soon leaves the city to feed national contracts and corporate profits. So we propose shifting investment from city centre developments to the neighbourhoods.

- 1) Favour smaller retail units in planning, to diversify business rates income, reduce risk and limit dependence on chain stores.
- 2) End the subsidy for free early evening city centre car parking, instead supporting local street markets and business support networks.
- 3) Support a local currency (“Tyneside Pound”), circulating again and again to build a stronger economy and create jobs.
- 4) Better universal services (like street cleaning, parks maintenance, ward budgets) will encourage more residents to take part in community events and support the “Co-operative Council.”
- 5) Vibrant high streets feel safer, encourage community engagement and provide better services for the most vulnerable residents.

See our website at <http://newcastleuponTyne.greenparty.org.uk> for the full text of our 2013 and 2016 budget responses.



- The budget will be debated at the City Council meeting on 1st March (6pm, Civic Centre). Please join Andrew Gray in the public gallery, and help to hold our elected councillors to account.
- Newcastle Green Party hopes to arrange a conference on Green Economics this summer. Contact Andrew for details: 07579 965254, [heatongreens@virginmedia.com](mailto:heatongreens@virginmedia.com) or address below.
- See New Economics Foundation [neweconomics.org](http://neweconomics.org) and Bristol Pound [bristolpound.org](http://bristolpound.org) for more on local economies.