**Press release:**

“Urgent debate needed on Social Care in XXXXXXXXX

Cllr xxxxxxxx xxxxxx, Lib Dem Spokesperson on Social care on XXXXXXXX Council has welcomed the release of the Green Paper on Adult Social Care by the Local Government Association.

This is a nationwide consultation to kick-start a desperately-needed debate on how to pay for adult social care and rescue the services caring for older and disabled people from collapse.

Years of significant underfunding of councils, coupled with rising demand and costs for care and support, have combined to push adult social care services to breaking point.

Cllr xxxxxxxxxx said, "It is an absolute disgrace that the Government, having promised us a Green Paper on this issue in the summer of 2017 has now failed to meet their own revised target of issuing it this summer and instead will release it at some time in the autumn.

This is an absolutely vital issue. Because we are failing to invest in programmes to keep those in or approaching their third age healthy we are condemning them to a life of ill-health which will continue to put huge strains on the NHS. We then compound that by having insufficient investment in facilities and services which means that up to 10% of hospital beds are occupied on any one day by people who have no clinical or medical need to be there.

Here in XXXXXXXX we have XXXX delayed discharges every year; and urgently need to provide more care in their homes for people.

Putting money into the NHS without aligning the spend to adult social care just means that the NHS will lurch from financial crisis to financial crisis. Unless we help more people to stay out of hospital and get them out of hospital quicker the NHS is in serious trouble.

We welcome the fact that the LGA have joined the Lib Dems in pressing for an adult conversation on how what is needed will be paid for. We have our own solution which is to raise £6.2 billion by putting a penny in the pound on income tax which would be split between social care and the NHS. As the LGA point out other solutions are possible".

ENDS:

The LGA Green Paper can be found in full at www.futureofadultsocialcare.co.uk/the-green-paper/

Contact Cllr xxxxxx on xxxxxxxx for further information”