



**Cabinet – 01<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

**Comments from the Liberal Democrat Group  
On the Leicester and Leicestershire City Deal**

One of the ambitions of the Liberal Democrats when joining the coalition was to give local authorities more freedoms and powers to tackle local issues using local knowledge and expertise. The City Deals were introduced to give Councils an opportunity to bid for powers, on condition that they could produce a viable plan to achieve their goals.

We applaud Leicestershire's Councils; the City, County and Districts; for successfully participating in the process and would like to congratulate everyone involved on the final signing of the agreement last week. Economic growth and youth unemployment are key issues and we welcome the councils' decision to focus on them.

We look forward to seeing what Leicestershire's councils can achieve with these powers and hope the results will encourage governments to trust and empower Councils with further powers in future.

**Comments by Dr Sarah Hill CC on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group**