

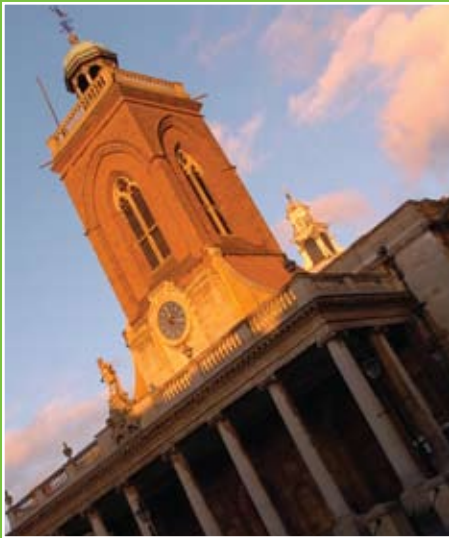
Forward Together

The Conservative vision for
the next four years

Local Elections June 2009



Northamptonshire
Conservatives



Our Manifesto

Our manifesto is about putting our customers and residents first, protecting and helping the vulnerable and enabling people to look after themselves.

Our agenda for the next four years will see us prioritise the following:

- A prosperous economy that helps to protect and create jobs across the County.
- Giving elderly people a wider choice of better quality care.
- Providing young people with wider, richer education and life experiences and opportunities.
- Strong emphasis on partnership working and value for money.
- Smaller government, low taxes, reducing costs and waste.

We will extend our 'In Control' scheme to help another 1000 people choose and decide how they want to live, and have more control over their care.

We will support those who want to stay in their own homes and we will work with the Health Service to improve the process for providing aids and adaptations.

We will work with the Health Service to ensure that those who have to go into residential care are safe and looked after in modern, well equipped and efficiently run care facilities.

The Conservatives will continue to recognise and support carers whilst

working with individuals and carer's groups to give them financial, emotional and practical support when and where they need it.

The Conservatives will ensure that safeguarding children remains a key priority for the County Council. We will invest extra money to ensure we have all the skills and capacity necessary to safeguard and protect those children who are at risk of being abused or neglected.

We will introduce the Northamptonshire Pupil Pledge which will set out what children and young people can expect from the County Council, and in turn what we expect from them. This will be at the centre of education in Northamptonshire, as Conservatives believe every school in the County should be a great school.

We will work with schools to place an emphasis on improving discipline and ensuring that the actions of a disruptive minority cannot be allowed to undermine the majority of pupils who want to learn and progress.

The promotion of competitive sports will be actively encouraged in our schools. This will help drive and motivate pupils to give them a competitive advantage and excite them about the 2012 Olympics.

Conservatives believe quality sporting facilities should be available to all. Schools are often at the centre of local communities, and opening up their sporting and exercise facilities to everyone will help encourage more people to enjoy healthier activities.



It is important that our foster carers are well supported, and in addition to investing nearly half a million pounds of support, a Conservative Administration will also assist them through the delivery of flexible transport solutions.

The Conservatives are committed to protecting our environment. We will minimise waste, reduce the cost of 'home composters' and work with supermarkets to reduce excess packaging. The County Council will also continue to clamp down on fly tippers and will do all it can to successfully prosecute offenders.

An essential aspect of protecting our environment is ensuring the County's flood defences are well maintained. The Conservatives are committed to a Northamptonshire-wide review of our flood defences to help ensure a repeat of the 1998 floods cannot happen again.

We are fully committed to developing and enhancing Northampton's position as a vibrant and successful County Town. We will continue to improve Northampton through the Public Realm scheme, which will make it more welcoming to visitors and pedestrians and boost the local economy.

The Conservatives will only continue to accept the MKSM growth proposals if infrastructure is provided which meets the needs of both existing and new communities. Consequently, if the provision of infrastructure is inadequate, we will demand an immediate scaling back of housing proposals across the County.

We will address the serious challenge of traffic congestion and freight traffic passing through the County, which will include for example the use of weight restriction orders.

The introduction of a smart card payment system, similar to the Oyster Card in London; will make it even easier and convenient for residents to use public transport.

We are determined that the County's rail network continues to receive much needed new investment. The Conservatives will also continue to advocate the need to redevelop Northampton train station and enhance its links with the town centre, in partnership with Northampton Borough Council and the WNDC.

We will review the number of speed cameras in the County as it is time Northamptonshire has a more balanced approach to improving safety on our roads. We will also adopt a new approach towards traffic calming measures to include greater use of vehicle activated signs and speed watch initiatives, instead of more traditional methods.

The Conservatives will review all white and yellow line parking restrictions in Northamptonshire. This will give us the opportunity to positively address any parking issues, help reduce congestion and make our shopping areas more accessible to motorists.

We are developing a major partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and Slough Borough Council to deliver local services in



a more efficient way. This new way of working will help us to revolutionise the way the County Council operates and is already helping us to save £1.25m a year.

The Conservatives are committed to keeping the level of Council Tax as low as possible, which will help hardworking families across the County during these uncertain economic times.

The development of our Library Plus concept will improve and enhance our libraries. We are committed to upgrading IT facilities in all our libraries to offer Wi-Fi access to our customers.

We also want to extend what a library can offer by helping residents to have quick and easy access to our customer services. We will also work in partnership with the District and Borough Councils as well as the voluntary sector, to give them a presence in our libraries.

The Conservatives will work to ensure there are more uniformed police officers patrolling the streets across Northamptonshire. In addition to providing £500,000 per annum for extra Police Community Support Officers, we will work with the Police on promoting the role of Special Constables.

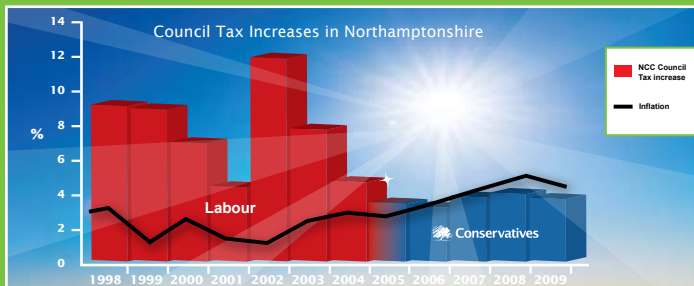
Ensuring our Fire and Rescue service is well resourced and equipped remains a key priority for the Conservatives. We have protected and invested in our fire service so that as we look to the future, they are able to cope with our growing County.

During the next four years, the Conservatives want to maintain the momentum of change that has helped to transform how the Council operates and the services it delivers.

Our performance and the improvements we have made have been recognised and praised, but we know this journey is far from over.

We will put the customer at the heart of what we do and ensure that as a customer focused organisation, residents can easily contact the Council and feel confident that any enquiry or problem they may have will be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Our vision for the County Council is to deliver a flexible and proactive organisation that is able to quickly adapt and react to the uncertain times ahead, whilst delivering high quality services that represent value for money.



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