



Vote Conservative

on Thursday 4th May 2017

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Working Together for a Better Leicestershire

The Conservative Manifesto for the Leicestershire County Council Elections 4th May 2017



Web: www.leicestershireconservatives.org.uk

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Conservatives

A Final message from Nick Rushton Leader of Leicestershire County Council

Voting Conservative on May 4th 2017 is your chance to shape the future direction of our County. Our record over the last four years has been impressive, despite the pressures and challenges we have faced. With your continuing support, we can keep Leicestershire on the path to prosperity.

The Right Future for Leicestershire



**Working Together for a Better Leicestershire
Vote Conservative on 4th May 2017**



Working Together for a Better Leicestershire

Introduction from Nick Rushton Leader of Leicestershire County Council



Back in 2013, I promised that the County Council would fundamentally change the way it works, how it operates and how it delivers or commissions its services. I am very proud that Leicestershire County Council has maintained its position as one of the very best performing councils in the country, despite its low funding position. We put people and outcomes first and foremost, with our outstanding staff delivering excellent quality and value for money services. We have kept tight control of the finances and maximised every opportunity for economic growth.

The future remains uncertain, but with that comes some exciting challenges and opportunities. Government revenue support grant will cease in 2020 with local government expected to be largely self-financing, via localisation of the business rate. That is why I want Leicestershire to be a part of a successful Combined Authority, with Leicester City Council, the seven district councils and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP). I want to collaborate further with our partners wherever possible to drive economic growth.



I call it “rebooting devolution” - a new, radical approach at making local services work for the benefit of local residents, including more integrated NHS and social care services, a new relationship with our schools, colleges and universities to support children at every key stage to ensure they are supported for the world of work and attain the skills employers want. I also want to see an integrated transport authority and devolved powers from Government over economic development, planning for housing and transport infrastructure.

Conservatives in Leicestershire respect the Brexit decision and will work hard to achieve the best outcomes for our region, with Leicestershire playing a leading role to maximise our economic, social and cultural opportunities.

This is why it is a Conservative government that is trusting County Councils like Leicestershire to drive the £392 million Midlands Engine, that will see hundreds if not thousands of new, hi-tech jobs based around the County and, if we get it right, put Leicestershire on the map as an international centre of excellence for jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

These are exciting and challenging times, money remains tight and there are tough decisions ahead. Conservatives can be trusted to do what is right, get the basics right, look after our most vulnerable residents and keep tight control of the finances.

This is a very Conservative manifesto and it is one that will ensure our best times are ahead of us. With your support on May 4th, we can continue to work together for a better Leicestershire.

Conservatives: working together to build a better Leicestershire



A Better Leicestershire

Leicestershire is one of the very best places in the UK to live and do business. We want to make it even better by working with communities to shape their localities by:

- A new policy of Community Speed Enforcement, using technology for a 21st century solution to manage speeding within our communities. A £500,000 pilot is already underway in seven village-locations across the county- directly responding to what communities are asking for.
- Looking after our environment and fighting inappropriate housing development, particularly in rural areas.
- Working with our partners to reach the final 4% of homes with broadband not yet covered by Superfast Leicestershire.



£172 million Capital Investment

Over the next term, Conservatives plan to put forward the biggest capital programme for the County seen in years. And none of this capital investment is financed from borrowing.

Leicestershire is a growing economy. The capital investment projects include:

- Securing funding from Government for essential infrastructure investment, including improvements to the A50/A511 and A6 corridors.
- £78.5M for highways, roads, footpaths and LED streetlights.
- £2.8M to get started on a relief road in Melton Mowbray.
- Over £37M on schools and school places.
- Actively developing new industrial and commercial premises including Airfield Farm in Market Harborough and looking at new developments in Lutterworth and Loughborough.



Conservatives keeping Leicestershire on the Move



What we have achieved in the last four years

- Made £135M savings, reducing the size of the organisation by a third whilst protecting and maintaining front line services.
- Kept council tax increases below the level of RPI inflation between 2013-17* and repaid £46M debt.
- Presided over a tremendous growth in employment. Since 2010, employment in the East Midlands has risen by over 188,000 with 4,785 more businesses created.
- Supported economic growth and jobs across the County, with more people in employment than ever before, with a better chance of owning their own home- over 400 families were helped via our local authority mortgages scheme or through our investment of New Homes Bonus money in affordable/extra-care housing schemes.
- Enabled 96% rollout of Superfast Broadband with a £33 million capital investment, 68,000 streetlights replaced with LEDs reducing energy bills by over £800k per year and cutting our carbon emissions.
- Opened Leicestershire's fourth new Special Educational Needs School in Wigston and transferred 32 out of 36 libraries to community trusts.
- Worked with our partners in the NHS and Clinical Commissioning Groups, to further integrate health and social care services in the County.

* This refers to council tax increases over the last term of the County Council 2013-17 and does not include the 3.99% increase for 2017/18. Increases in the county element of council tax for a Band D property between these years was 5.98% (cumulative) and RPI inflation was 8% (cumulative).



continued ...

What we have achieved in the last four years

- Over 86% of our schools are OFSTED rated good or outstanding, 99% of secondary schools have become academies, secured £60 million from government for extra school places and secured a review of the way schools are funded.
- Protected the budgets for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults with £18 million extra for children's social care and £19.7 million government funding for adult social care.
- Supported 600 families to turn their lives around through our Supporting Leicestershire families programme.
- Achieved the best maintained Highways in the UK.
- Become the number 1-rated UK local authority for excellence in Equalities.
- Maintained our county-wide network of household waste and recycling centres.



*Join us in our plans to build a better Leicestershire by voting
Conservative on 4th May 2017*



Jobs & Investment (continued)

Some major projects have already been announced, including:

- The UK's first Life Sciences Opportunity Zone in Loughborough that will accelerate business growth across the UK.
- Loughborough University's Science and Enterprise Park, the second enterprise zone in Leicestershire building upon the success of Horiba-MIRA at Hinckley.
- £13 million to create a Space Park, to act as a global hub for business and innovation, research and development and education and training, benefiting both Leicester and Leicestershire.

Jobs, investment and economic growth know no boundaries and we intend to work with anyone who has an interest in putting Leicestershire first. Developing these and other key strategic relationships, putting politics aside, will continue under a new Conservative administration after May 4th 2017.



Conservatives investing in jobs

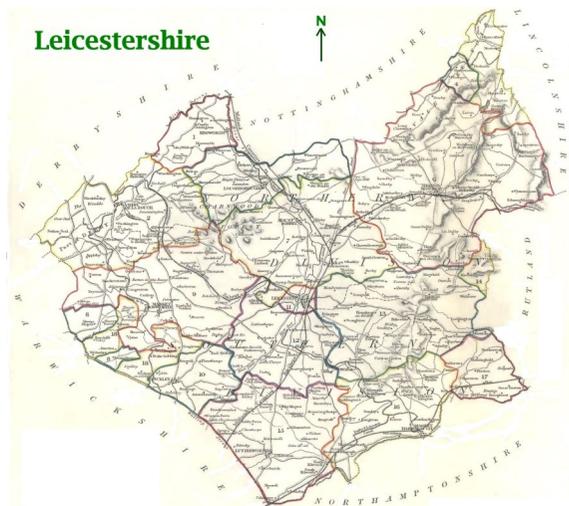


Jobs & Investment

Voting Conservative will keep Leicestershire on the path to prosperity, to make it the best place to live, raise a family and send out the message Leicestershire is always open for business.

To support jobs and investment, we want Leicestershire:

- To be part of a successful and ambitious Combined Authority, which will see more inward investment and more big decisions over funding taken locally, by councillors and business leaders , rather than by Government.
- To agree with Government a Devolution Deal for Leicestershire driving the Midlands Engine for Growth, keeping Leicestershire's economy strong and prosperous.
- To make a success of Brexit, working with businesses to capitalise on new commercial and investment opportunities, retaking control of procurement.



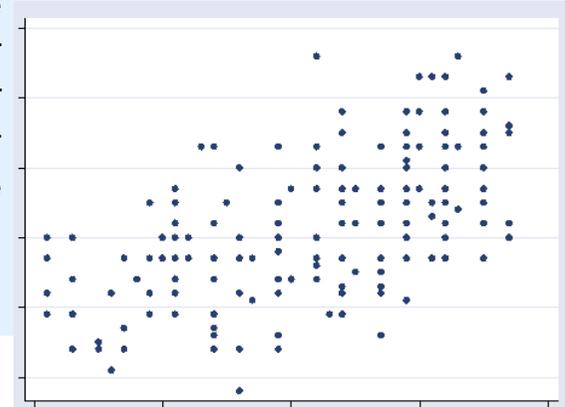
What about the next four years?

With demands on our budgets increasing- mainly through growth in children's and adults' social care and waste services, it is now no longer just a matter of transforming how the organisation works and how we deliver or commission our services.

A new funding formula for local government

We have to fix the broken system of local funding- delivering a fairer, needs-based, cost-driver model for both local government and our schools. Leicestershire Conservatives have worked very hard on developing a new system of local government funding- known as "***The Leicestershire Model.***"

We have worked closely with our MPs in Leicestershire developing this model, with other low funded county authorities, such as Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. Together, we have convinced the County Councils Network, the national body that represents the interests of County Councils, to incorporate ***The Leicestershire Model*** into their work programme to lobby Government for fundamental reform. Stronger together, we will work with our MPs and our like-minded partners, to deliver a fairer funding formula for local government that will see most councils better off.



Council Tax

We want to keep council tax rises as low as possible. It is a fine balancing act between making sure we have affordable levels of council tax and raising sufficient funds to provide services for the residents of Leicestershire. We have got the balance about right, delivering on average below inflation increases over the last four years. We are not proposing to levy above the maximum 4.99% that would trigger a referendum.



Support our financial plans - a Fair Funding formula for Leicestershire



Invest in Better Care, Health and Our Social Services

Together, adults' and children's services account for the vast majority of the County Council's revenue expenditure. Our social care services will see more emphasis on prevention and stopping problems escalating- meeting and reducing the demand for expensive services.

- We will continue to invest over £26 million per annum in Leicestershire's Public Health.
- We will continue to invest in extra-care housing for elderly residents, building upon the current 257 number of units, working with our partners to identify future developments.
- We will continue to protect vulnerable children and adults, prioritising their social care- taking a zero tolerance approach to domestic violence, hate and cyber-crime and child sexual exploitation.
- We will co-operate fully with the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, led by Professor Alexis Jay OBE.
- We will extend our Supporting Families programme over the next four years, supporting 2,790 families up to 2020 and look at new ways of supporting a network of children's centres in Leicestershire.

Conservatives help protect the young, elderly and vulnerable people in their time of need.

