

WIRRAL CONSERVATIVE GROUP

A MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2010



Conservatives

FIXING WIRRAL'S BROKEN COUNCIL

Wirral Council Must Change

Wirral Conservatives believe the Council has a responsibility to make absolutely sure that no part of Wirral is ignored. That's why we opposed the attempts by Labour and the Liberal Democrats to close our libraries and leisure centres and remove school crossing patrols. Wirral Council has massive debts and huge challenges but by working with the people of Wirral, Conservatives believe we can overcome these issues and make our Borough better for everyone.

Our pledges for the Council Elections on May 6th:

We will start by making sure the basic services are meeting the needs of the Borough

We will fix Wirral's broken council by listening to you and involving more people in how decisions are reached.

We will help to fix Wirral's battered economy by working with a Conservative Government to freeze your Council Tax

A Manifesto For All of Wirral

The past years of a Labour and Liberal Democrat Council have not been good for the people of Wirral. There has been too much secrecy, too many communities have been overlooked, the needs of vulnerable people have been ignored and people have not been given enough say on the issues that affect their neighbourhood.

It is no wonder that people have begun to feel that their local Council is both distant and arrogant; unwilling to listen to local views, unable even to do the basics properly.

Conservatives believe that Wirral must become a listening Council that is inclusive in its decision making. Wirral has an outstanding variety of community groups doing great work and volunteering across the whole of Wirral. Our plans for investment into resident insight, consultation and direct democracy would allow the Council to include such groups and individuals in real and meaningful consultation and use their knowledge and experience to improve the Council's decision making and services to our communities.



Getting the Basics Right

Sometimes people wonder what the Council is for. They see that it can't even get the basics right – like collecting the rubbish or repairing the roads. We want to change that. If you don't see the Council clearing the bins, sweeping the streets, gritting the roads or mending the pavements, then it's no wonder people doubt the Council's ability to do the bigger jobs too.

We want your Council to spend less time talking to itself, and more time delivering the front line services you pay for. We want Councillors and Council Officials to be held to account by residents for the delivery of services. By setting clear priorities agreed with local residents, we believe we can deliver a new era of truly local government in Wirral.

Fixing Wirral 's Broken Council

We start from the basic principle that no part of Wirral should be ignored. Everybody's voice should matter. That's why we opposed the attempts by Labour and the Liberal Democrats to close our libraries and leisure centres and remove school crossing patrols.

We want to put people back at the heart of how decisions are made. We want to make sure the Council works with you – not against you. That's why we want to take power away from 10 councillors who make up the 'Cabinet' and hand it back to the whole council and local residents.

We want to pioneer new ways of involving members of the public in deciding everything from the big decisions such as the strategic direction of the Council to the maintenance and care of your local area.



Every Pound Matters

We are fully aware that every pound spent by the Council has to come from resident's earnings or savings and that it is no longer available to be spent by you on your own or your families priorities. By taking this money out of your pockets it is also unavailable to our local economy putting businesses and jobs at risk. Because of this we believe the Council has a special responsibility to demonstrate to you that any money the Council raises is needed for front line services, is spent wisely and that it is not used for unnecessary extravagances.

We want to radically re-shape the Council's senior management structure to reduce costs and improve accountability. We will be reducing expenditure on non-frontline activity such as public relations, marketing and external consultancy, ending first class travel, free sandwiches and evening meals, away days and team building events in expensive locations. And we will reduce the cost of Wirral's politics cutting all Councillor allowances by 5%

Conservatives on Wirral Council are committed, with central government help, to freezing the Wirral's Council Tax.

Our Priorities

- ◆ Protect children,
- ◆ Improve well being and public safety.
- ◆ Support the local economy, protecting businesses and jobs
- ◆ Protect front line Council Services
- ◆ Ensure no part of Wirral is ever ignored again.

