

# **From Austerity to Opportunity**

**The Conservative Manifesto for the Devon  
County Council elections on 4 May 2017**



**Vote Conservative**

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# A personal message from the Conservative Group Leader

Dear Resident

In the past eight years we have transformed services such as libraries, with not a single closure, and the youth service. We have delivered major infrastructure projects such as the South Devon Link Road, the Crediton By-Pass and two new railways stations at Newcourt and Cranbrook. We have developed popular Cycle Tracks around the County, including the Exe Estuary and Drake Trails and our improvements in Devon's Children's Services have been highlighted as an example of good practice for other authorities. Our ambition over the next 4 years is to move from austerity to opportunity, which is why we have an ambitious list of pledges. We will maintain our campaign for Devon's children and their schools to get a fair funding deal. We gained an extra £16 million for schools 2 years ago but every child is still funded at £290 below the national average. I have launched a petition urging the Government to ensure that Devon gets its fair share of funds for Education. Our children deserve it.

*John Hart*



Cllr John Hart.

# Delivering our pledges to you



**A Restructure of the County Council.**

**Less Departments**

**Less Managers**

**Less Staff**

**Less property,**

**Less bureaucracy**

**We have reduced expenditure by £267 million.**

**Invested over £1 billion in capital projects.**

**Extra Budget Money:**

**Devon County put more money in for Pot Holes and Drainage in their budget.**

**Devon County Council were awarded an additional £15.1 million for Social Care by the Government in February.**



# Our Campaigns



## **Improving services for the young, elderly and vulnerable**

**We will continue to work with partners to support the elderly and vulnerable people with disabilities.**



## **Fairer Funding for Schools**

**We will campaign for fairer funding for Devon's schools. Each pupil in Devon received £290 less than the national average. Conservatives in Devon believe this is not right. Please sign our petition [www.devonconservatives.org.uk](http://www.devonconservatives.org.uk)**



## **Maintaining Devon's Highway network**

**Highways:- The Conservative council put an additional £2million into this years budget for Road repairs and £500,000 for road drainage. This was on top of being awarded an extra £3.9m for pothole repairs and £7.1m for road patching.**



## **Better road and rail links with London**

**Lobbying:- Devon is leading on this project. We have brought the councils of the South West together to put pressure on Government to improve the regional transport to the south west.**



## **Improving Devon's Rural Broadband**

**Broadband:- Improved Broadband is now available in large parts of the county. New contracts have now been signed with another company using new technology to improve the service in the more remote areas of the county.**

# Our Campaigns



## **Creating more skilled, well paid jobs**

**Jobs:-** The county is still expanding both Skypark and the Science park. The new Super Computer is now working and linked to the Met Office. The county are also developing more business parks around the County including Barnstaple and Okehampton.



## **Eliminating waste to landfill**

**Waste:-** Devon has one of the highest recycling rates in the country. We have also worked with partners in developing 2 waste to energy plants, one in Exeter and one in Plymouth. These plants take about 75% of the county Waste.



## **Encouraging communities to be more self-reliant**

We instigated the Town and Parish (TAP) fund to give communities the opportunity to work together, carrying out improvements that would benefit their areas. We now also have trained Snow Wardens, Road Wardens, and Chapter 8 trained residents capable of mobilising in times of need.



## **Delivering value for money**

**Value for Money:-** We have continued to restructure the way the County Council works. We have , Less Managers, Less staff, Less Bureaucracy,



# Listening to Devon

**Every year Devon County Council holds consultation meetings and online questionnaires. We ask what is important to you and your local community.**

**The themes running through the responses were that we should protect the old, the young and the vulnerable.**

**The County has had to reduce expenditure over the last 8 years. However, we have increased the budget to support both children and adults living in Devon.**

**Please support us again.**

**Vote Conservative on 4th May, giving us a mandate to continue this good work.**