



Guildford Conservatives

The Conservative Manifesto for the
Guildford Borough Council Elections on
5 May 2011




Vote Conservative

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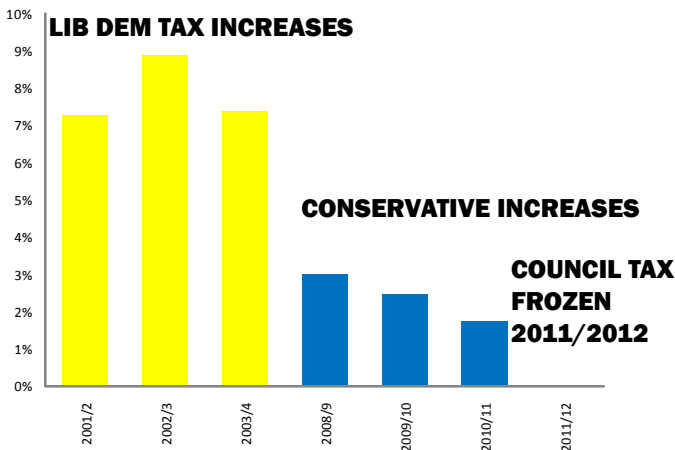
Promoted by Jackie Porter, on behalf of Guildford Conservatives, both of Unit 17a Home Farm, Loseley Park, Guildford GU3 1HS.

1 Economy

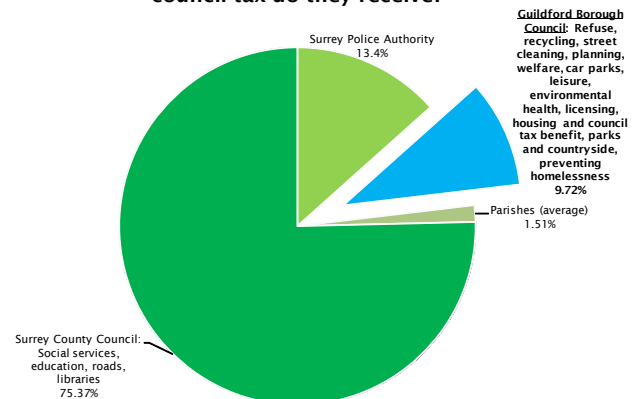
Our pledges to you:

- **Freeze council tax for 2011/2012**
- **Continue to provide excellent Value for Money**
- **Achieve Purple Flag status for the town centre economy**
- **Promote tourism through Guildford's Tourist Information Centre**
- **Support local post offices, pubs and small shops**
- **Maintain our vibrant, competitive local economy by supporting local businesses**

GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX INCREASES



Which council does what and how much council tax do they receive?



Conservative controlled Guildford Borough Council has frozen the council tax you pay for their services in 2011/12. Whilst the borough collects all your council tax, it keeps less than 10%. Guildford Borough Council's careful financial management and planning has helped Guildford cope with the challenging economic climate, reduced investment income and government funding.

Despite the difficult financial situation, Councillors and officers have already made savings by changing the way we provide services with the minimum impact on our residents, identifying further efficiencies, working in partnership with other councils and public bodies.

This has been recognised in The Audit Commission's latest report on the Council's value for money achievement, which says: "The Council responded promptly to the economic downturn, identifying and realising efficiency savings and maintaining financial balance."

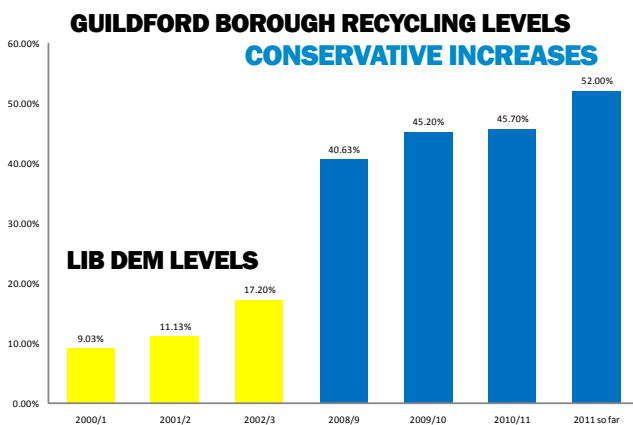
We are also looking at new ways of generating income, using our assets even more effectively and implementing pay freezes for all but the lowest paid. We continue to invest in many varied improvements- opening G Live for top class entertainment (on time and on budget), maintaining the setts and heritage of our High Street, improving our high quality council housing, protecting our environment across the borough. These measures will help maintain the high level of services with no increase in council tax.

Since the Conservatives took control of the Council in 2003 we have adopted a consistent approach of keeping council tax increases at or below inflation. This policy has taken Guildford Borough Council to near the bottom of the Surrey council tax league.

2 Environment

Our pledges to you:

- Increase plastics recycling to reach our new target of 70%
- Reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2020
- Provide free Energy Audits for schools and small businesses
- Install recycling bins for glass, paper and plastic in Town Centre and some shopping parades
- Campaign for 'Close the Door' and 'Turn the lights off' in Town Centre
- Help finance energy saving home improvements



Figures based on National Indicator 192



Conservatives on Guildford Borough Council have made a huge investment in combating climate change.

Conservative Councillors have approved the investment of just over £1 million on nine energy saving projects which is estimated to save over 1,600 tonnes of CO₂.

Projects include a biomass boiler at the council offices at Millmead, energy efficient lighting in Bedford Road car park and a combined heat and power system at Spectrum Leisure Centre with the total savings projected to be £247,150 a year.

Since the introduction of Recycling Works programme, the amount of rubbish being recycled has increased dramatically.

Across the borough we are now recycling and composting more than 65% of the household waste that we produce. This means, for example, that more than 1777 tons of food waste are being recycled rather than taking up landfill. In addition we have just extended those collections to flats, with aspirations to collect from schools and businesses as well.

The council has also just announced a pilot project in Ash to collect the full range of mixed plastic packaging, such as yoghurt pots, food trays and margarine tubs, carrier bags and film wrap.

3 Housing

Our pledges to you:

- **Provide more affordable housing to meet local needs**
- **Work with residents to fight Garden Grabbing**
- **Ensure green spaces in new housing developments**
- **Continue to protect the Green Belt**
- **Work to bring empty homes back into use**
- **Remove maximum parking restrictions on new developments**



Following the successful defeat of the South East Plan by Guildford Borough Council and Guildford residents we will continue to fight to preserve the character of our town and villages.

To preserve gardens and the Green Belt we will continue to work on finding brown-field sites that can support housing instead. Our main site is around Slyfield.

Publication of the master plan and the public consultation for the Slyfield Area Regeneration Plan (SARP) have now been delayed until late this Summer to look at a further lower density option for the site. This is the largest project of its kind undertaken in Guildford for many years.

A new option with only 1,000 dwellings with fewer flats and more family accommodation is being investigated. There is still an option with up to 1,500 dwellings under consideration.

The proposals include building a new, state of the art, fully enclosed Thames Water Sewage Works further North on the site, redeveloping the waste processing sites, and building an attractive residential development adjacent to the river with at least 35% affordable homes.

Conservative run Guildford Borough Council has gained more than a million pounds' worth of government funding to provide more affordable homes in the borough. New housing schemes in Guildford town centre will benefit from the government money, and some extra funding will also help house vulnerable young people.

A total of £1,072,000 will go to housing associations building 28 new affordable homes which are due to be completed this year and a further £150,000 of government funding has been secured to help house vulnerable young people in the Borough.

4 Culture & Community

Our pledges to you:

- **Provide more allotments**
- **Sponsor a 'Nominated neighbours scheme' to aid the elderly and vulnerable**
- **Maintain our 'No Casino' policy**
- **Extend and refurbish Guildford Museum**
- **Launch an New Work Experience Scheme at Guildford Council**
- **Provide big screen Olympics coverage in Stoke Park**
- **Launch an "Adopt a street" Campaign**



Conservative run Guildford Borough Council has delivered a state-of-the-art new entertainment venue. *G Live* is on budget and on time to open in Autumn 2011. Conservative run GBC embarked on this ambitious project which demonstrates the great investment to support the local economy and future arts and entertainment opportunities.

In November the council appointed HQ Theatres Limited to operate the *G Live* on behalf of GBC. As a result Guildford will have a venue that will present a top class entertainment programme of music and comedy of national and international standards. We plan to use it as a focus for local talent, involvement and participation.

The new venue on London Road will include a 1,000 seat/1,700 standing auditorium, a versatile studio space, two conference and five seminar rooms, a café and bars.

Services for older people within the borough have recently undergone a radical reorganisation following a huge budget cut by the Coalition Government last year.

This change was planned, as more and more elderly folk tell us that they want to stay in their own homes and no longer prefer to move into sheltered accommodation. They want to keep their links with the communities in which they live, meet friends and pursue their interests.

We have therefore reorganised care around different "hubs" within the borough.

Instead of bussing people into the town from their homes all around the borough, the strategy is to ensure that well-placed hubs of activity in different areas deliver a whole range of the services elderly people need. This range includes such essentials as meals on wheels and personal care but also the more social pastimes such as Bingo and Scrabble.

5 Cleaner, Safer Community

Our pledges to you:

- **Extend our Community Speed Watch Schemes**
- **Increase street sweeping and publish timetable on Council Website**
- **'No Cold Calling' Campaign in partnership with Surrey Police**
- **Extend 'Community Payback scheme' to get offenders visibly working for the community**
- **Encourage retailers to provide bins for chewing gum and cigarettes and reduce litter outside their shop**
- **Campaign to remove street clutter and improve signage**



Guildford Borough Council and Surrey Police have improved joint working that will benefit local residents. The plans include relocation of police neighbourhood teams to the Council's Millmead offices.

In developing these exciting proposals with the police, the Council plans to develop a more joined-up, and therefore cost-effective, approach to community safety issues.

The aim is that by bringing the neighbourhood police team under the same roof as the Council's neighbourhood services will prove to be a first step in creating a new joint delivery service which could become a first in the UK.

The Council and the police are keen to explore fully the potential to reduce costs and so help keep more police officers on the Borough's streets.

The change would help provide a more joined-up and effective approach to issues such as anti-social behaviour and nuisance. It would also provide funding to support an extra 200 front-line police staff across the county.

This proposal will mean significant overall efficiency savings for the council-tax payer.

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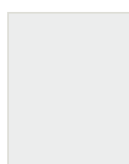
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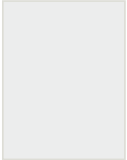
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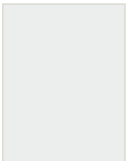
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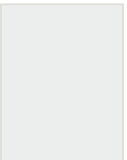
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