

LABOUR ELECTION PLANS IN NORTH HERTS

The Labour Party in North Herts has adopted a six-point plan for the district council election campaign.

It sees as the priorities:

- Jobs and the economy
- Public safety
- Health and social care
- Homes
- Green issues and recycling
- Community

In a statement the party said: "We are beginning to see the results of council cuts and we believe that there are still tough times ahead.

"The Labour Party is committed to protect our community and in this election we will be campaigning on issues which are important now and to our future."

Key issues:

Jobs and the economy: In North Herts we have seen an increase in youth unemployment and to help combat the situation Labour will lead by example by providing apprenticeships within the district council.

We will re-instate the post of economic development officer to help attract more businesses to North Herts, supporting existing ones and creating more local jobs.

Public safety: The Conservative-led coalition government is cutting Hertfordshire police budget by £38.5 million over the next four years with the loss of almost 500 officers, and closing or partially closing of police stations such as been seen in Baldock.

Hertfordshire County Council in a cost cutting exercise is to shortly switch-off street lighting in mainly residential areas between midnight and 6am.

Labour is opposed to the cuts in police and will demand action in restoring lighting where there has been a rise in crime and accidents.

Health and social care: The Conservatives promised not to cut the NHS - but with the help of their Liberal Democrat partners they are cutting the health budget by £20 million. In North Herts, this will mean the loss of an estimated 1,200 clinical posts in the health service over the next five years.

Labour will ensure our district council acts in a spirit of co-operation and that services it provides are integrated with county and national services.

Homes: The district council has received £1 million from the Government to promote the building of new affordable homes - but half has been used to balance the council's budget and the rest has been put in reserves.

There are 2,150 people on council's priority waiting list which would take 25 years to clear at the rate of the council's plans for new homes Labour in the future will use at least half of this government money to promote new affordable rented homes.

Green issues and re-cycling: In 2006, the district council signed up to reduce carbon emissions by 30 per cent by 2020 - but since its records started in 2008 no reduction has been achieved, and last year it dropped its green issues priority.

Labour will work towards a target of 40 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.

Labour will improve cycling and pedestrian facilities, work to promote bus services and promote renewable energy sources.

Labour supports all waste reduction and re-cycling efforts and will respond to residents' requests for kerbside plastic collections.

Community: Labour will extend the powers of the district council's area committees to meet the needs of communities and promote neighbourhood planning and forums.

Labour will review council cuts in grants of charitable bodies and the impact on their community.

Labour will ensure that our community halls and centres are properly supported in a transfer of management responsibility to willing organisations.

Our candidates

BALDOCK EAST: Vaughan West

BALDOCK TOWN: Ken Garland

LETCHWORTH EAST: Ian Mantle

LETCHWORTH GRANGE: Clare Billing

LETCHWORTH SOUTH EAST: Nicholas Kissen

LETCHWORTH SOUTH WEST: Jean Andrews

LETCHWORTH WILBURY: Deepak Sangha