

LABOUR HAVE PUT UP YOUR COUNCIL TAX BY 22%* IN 6 YEARS

But cannot provide assurances on how your money has been spent
2016/17 accounts still not signed off** by Council's Independent Auditors

THINK YOU ARE GETTING VALUE FOR MONEY FROM READING'S
LABOUR COUNCIL?

*Average Band C
** As of 16/04/2018

A CONSERVATIVE COUNCIL IN READING WILL DELIVER

- 1 Council Tax increase below inflation—and fix Labour's mess of the Council's finances
- 2 Removal of the **Green Bin** charge and a weekly collection of **Black Bins** in the summer from May-September
- 3 A major road resurfacing programme across Reading—fixing all **potholes**
- 4 A place for every child in a good **local school** by delivering more school places
- 5 Cut the cost of local politics—**reduce the number of councillors** and elections every four years as in neighbouring councils

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE VOTE CONSERVATIVE ON 3 MAY

MORE GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO FIX POTHOLES

Helen Manghnani, Tilehurst Candidate, points out a pothole which caused damage to local residents' cars.

■ Reading's roads are in a shocking state—because of the Labour Council's neglect we appear to be the 'Pothole Capital' of the country!

The Government is already providing a record £6 billion to local authorities between 2015 and 2021 to maintain and improve their roads.

And at the end of March the Government announced a further £100 million for local councils to help repair potholes.

Reading Council is getting money from this £100 million fund.

It's time to get the potholes fixed before they do more damage to local residents' cars!



LABOUR COUNCIL IN EQUAL PAY DISPUTE

Reading's Labour Council has been taken to an Industrial Tribunal and had to pay over £3 million to women employees who were paid less than men.

Over 90 cases are still outstanding and the Labour Council has already spent over £1.5 million of Council Taxpayers' money on legal costs defending its position.

A Trade Union official was reported in the local press to have noted:

"The council's actions are nothing short of immoral."

By contrast the Conservative Government has introduced ground-breaking regulations, requiring large employers across all sectors to publish the differences between what they pay their male and female staff in average salaries and bonuses.

The Government is encouraging organisations to go beyond the mandatory requirements by, for example, publishing an action plan setting out how to close the gender pay gap.

GOVERNMENT HELPS OUT READING COUNCIL WITH BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT

Raj Singh, Kentwood ward Council Candidate, welcomes funding boost delivered by pilot.

■ The Government announced at the end of last year that Reading Council, along with the five other councils in Berkshire, will be included in a new 100% business rates retention pilot scheme.

The pilot will test out aspects of a new future business rates retention programme, due to be implemented in 2020/21.

This will give local councils the levers and incentives they need to grow their local economies.

Ultimately this will mean more money for public services in Reading which is welcomed!



GOVERNMENT MONEY FOR LOCAL HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE

Zac Okeyo, Norcot ward Council Candidate, has welcomed £6 million for Dee Park Regeneration

■ Despite Labour Reading Council not doing enough to get affordable homes built locally, Conservatives in government are stepping up to the plate.

Recently the Government announced £6 million of extra money for the Dee Park

Regeneration from the National Housing Infrastructure Fund.

This money will help to deliver more homes, faster. The Government recognises that it is vital to deliver local infrastructure to support more home building.



CONSERVATIVES DELIVER 30 HOURS' FREE CHILDCARE



Nick Fudge, Minster ward Council Candidate, pictured above with his grandchildren, welcomes the Government's help for working parents with the cost of childcare.

■ Conservatives have doubled free childcare to 30 hours a week for 3 and 4 year-olds since September 2017. Hundreds of thousands of parents

across the country are now benefitting from this change allowing them greater flexibility in their working life.

THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT — HELPING YOU WITH THE COST OF LIVING

- We have increased personal allowances, so a typical basic rate taxpayer will pay £1,075 less income tax than in 2010
- We are helping more people to buy a home of their own by abolishing stamp duty for 80 per cent of first time buyers
- 4 million of the lowest paid workers have been taken out of income tax altogether
- 12 million pensioners are getting a boost to their state pension – giving them greater security in retirement
- We have also boosted incomes for the lowest paid workers by £2,000 through the National Living Wage
- Fuel duty has been frozen for the eighth year running, saving the typical car driver £850 and the average van driver over £2,100, compared to Labour's plans
- We are helping working parents with the cost of childcare by doubling free childcare to 30 hours a week for 3 & 4-year-olds

FOCUS ON DELIVERING APPRENTICESHIPS

Rob Vickers, Southcote ward Council Candidate, who used to run his own business, is a keen supporter of the Government's focus on apprenticeships.

■ Since 2010 there have been around 3.5 million apprenticeship starts in England, with around 7,000 in the Reading West constituency.

The Government has also established industry-designed degree level apprenticeships which bring together the very best of higher and vocational education.



YOUR CONSERVATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES IN **READING WEST**

FOR THE LOCAL ELECTIONS ON 3 MAY, 2018

MICHAEL HEY—BATTLE WARD



Michael has lived in Battle for several years. He served as an Officer in the Royal Navy and worked in the offshore oil and gas industry. Michael now volunteers with a local charitable organisation.

NICK FUDGE—MINSTER WARD



Nick has lived in Coley for over 30 years and runs his own local business, specialising in printing and graphic design. A keen campaigner, he has taken up local issues including parking problems in Coley and protecting Reading's heritage and environment.

ZACHARY OKEYO —NORCOT WARD



Zach has lived in Norcot for 17 years and works within the transport sector in Reading. Zach regularly volunteers alongside business communities within Reading to promote and encourage local investment.

ROB VICKERS—SOUTHCOTE WARD



Rob has lived in Southcote for 20 years and ran his own construction business. He has also served as a trade union representative. Rob has a keen interest in local issues, and wants to see anti-social behaviour tackled in the area.

HELEN MANGHNANI —TILEHURST WARD



Helen has lived in Tilehurst for over 25 years and is retired after a lifetime of service in the public sector, including positions within the Prison Service, the Police Force and the Ministry of Defence. Helen now volunteers with voluntary and charity groups across Reading

HELEN HOPPER — WHITLEY WARD



Helen has lived in Reading for 18 years and works as a Freelance Copywriter, with a particular interest in sustainable business, education and IT. Helen is an active member of her local church.

RAJ SINGH —KENTWOOD WARD



Raj has lived and worked in Reading for over 6 years as a Project Manager in the technology sector. Raj regularly helps Reading-based NHS and Alzheimer charities. Raj also volunteers his time to support young students throughout their education.

EMMA WARMAN —KENTWOOD WARD



Emma has lived in Kentwood Ward for over 10 years and works in compliance for an insurance broker. Emma previously served as a Councillor for Kentwood Ward between 2008 and 2012 and has been a Governor of a local primary school.

WHY ARE THERE TWO CANDIDATES STANDING FOR KENTWOOD WARD THIS YEAR?

This year there are two councillors to be elected in Kentwood ward.

- This is because Conservative Councillor Tom Steele stepped down in April due to family and health reasons.
- A hugely popular local resident, Tom had served as a Kentwood Councillor for 7 years — from 2007 to 2011 and then again from 2015 to 2018.
- We wish Tom all the best in his retirement and Raj and Emma hope to carry on his excellent work if elected on 3 May with your support.

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For a strong and effective councillor team, vote Conservative on 3 May