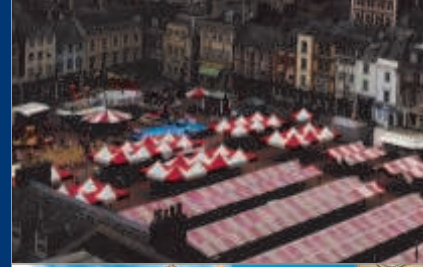


Securing **Northampton's** Future

Conservative Manifesto for
Northampton Borough Council
elections on 7th May 2015



Northampton
Conservatives

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Delivering our 40 pledges



In May 2011, Northampton Conservatives were elected to The Guildhall with a manifesto of 40 bold pledges to Put Northampton Back on Track. Here are the pledges that have been delivered for the people of Northampton over the last four years.

THE CONSERVATIVE RECORD OF ACTION

Regenerate Northampton Town Centre ✓	Support and develop Community Payback scheme ✓	Encourage events in our parks to attract more visitors ✓	Address match day parking issues. ✓
Promote jobs and inward investment ✓	Improve community centres and build bridges with community groups ✓	Reinstate fortnightly brown bin collections ✓	Support the town's sports clubs ✓
Work on key regeneration projects ✓	Reduce senior managers and consultants ✓	Proper consultation with tenants on future housing developments and bids ✓	Retain and develop the town's museums ✓
Open up middle section of Abington Street to traffic ✓	Freeze councillor allowances for four years ✓	Consult tenants on large scale housing stock transfer to housing associations ✓	Build on success of The Royal and Derngate Theatres as key part of cultural life ✓
Introduce free car parking ✓	Combine services with other councils to save money ✓	Recognise special nature of Sheltered Housing and retain under council control ✓	Incorporate new Marina into life of the town ✓
Introduce 'Borough Wide' planning policy to allow development across the Borough ✓	Publish a 'Consultants Register' showing money spent on consultants ✓	Introduce zones for Houses of Multiple Occupancy and online register ✓	Work with Northampton Arts Collective ✓
Set up independent Advisory Group to look at Market Square ✓	Work with residents who want to set up new parish councils ✓	'Zero Tolerance' to illegal traveller camps ✓	Recognise historical importance of Delapre Abbey and Delapre Park ✓
Appoint a High Street Czar to look at town centre ✓	Freeze Council Tax ✓	Full review of car parking charges ✓	Celebrate London Olympics and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 ✓
Introduce fully accredited Neighbourhood Wardens ✓	Introduce dedicated Park Rangers ✓	Introduce pay-as-you-leave machines to remainder of car parks ✓	Work with voluntary and community groups ✓
'Zero tolerance' to fly-tipping and prosecute those responsible ✓	Give communities a role in the management of our parks ✓	Work with County Council to review Resident parking ✓	Set up Councillor Community Fund to empower local groups ✓

These 40 delivered pledges show what Northampton Conservatives have achieved over the last four years since they were elected to The Guildhall.

In May 2015, the people of Northampton have a clear choice: four more years of Conservatives delivering for our town or put our future at risk with Labour who wrecked our national economy or the Liberal Democrats who took our town backwards. **UKIP do not have a plan for Northampton's future.**

Only the Conservatives have a plan for our town and a record of action to show they deliver.

The Conservative record

Dear Resident

Conservatives took control at The Guildhall in May 2011 with a pledge to 'Put Northampton Back on Track' after four years of failure from the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservatives have delivered the largest programme of regeneration in Northampton in years with over 40 projects including a new Railway Station, the relocation of the University of Northampton and the redevelopments of Franklin's Gardens and Sixfields Stadium under the Northampton Alive banner.

Conservatives secured the Enterprise Zone for Northampton which has attracted millions of pounds of investment and created hundreds of new jobs. The town centre has also been **improved with more visitors and more businesses, and the Conservatives' free parking offer** has helped to transform Northampton and turn the town around.

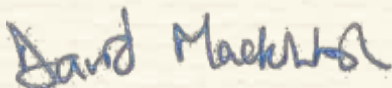
The Borough Council has also been transformed with a massive reduction in senior management costs and the creation of shared services with other authorities saving over £9 million for the taxpayer to prioritise frontline services.

All of this was delivered with no increase in the Borough Council's Council Tax and councillor allowances were frozen for the full four years.

In 2011, Conservatives pledged to be honest about the town's housing needs. After a full consultation process with tenants, Northampton Partnership Homes was created in January 2015 to transform housing for Council tenants and give them a real voice.

In contrast, in the previous four years, the Liberal Democrats had increased Council Tax and put councillor allowances up by 63% and Labour had failed the country with the tragic mismanagement of the economy.

This manifesto sets out the Conservative plans for the next four years to continue the programme of improvements for Northampton to ensure that frontline services are prioritised with a well-run efficient Borough Council led by Northampton Conservatives.



Cllr David Mackintosh

Leader, Northampton Borough Council





NORTHAMPTON ALIVE

Since the Conservative administration took control at The Guildhall in 2011, Northampton has seen the largest development programme for a generation. The 'Northampton Alive' programme was led by the Conservatives at Northampton Borough Council, the town's Conservative MPs and the Conservatives running Northamptonshire County Council working with the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The 'Northampton Alive' programme has delivered over 40 projects including a new railway station, a new bus station, opened up the middle section of Abington Street to traffic, worked with our Conservative colleagues at Northamptonshire County Council to secure agreement for the Project Angel scheme which will bring 2,000 workers back into the town centre in 2016, and relocate the University.

Northampton Conservatives want to see a vibrant town centre with quality shops, strong independent retailers and a busy Market Square, and recognise the need to attract people into Northampton through events and activities, with free parking and easy access, due to changes in retail.

Schemes introduced by the Conservative administration have seen an increase in visitors and a resurgence in businesses locating in the town centre. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work proactively with businesses to meet the needs of visitors and secure **Northampton's economic future.**

University of Northampton

The relocation of the University of

Northampton by 2020 will bring a £330 million investment to the town centre and provide a massive opportunity for the future redevelopment of the town.

The Conservative administration has worked with the University of Northampton to enable the St John's Student Accommodation and the Innovation Centre in the Enterprise Zone.

The University remains a key partner for Northampton Borough Council and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work in close partnership to deliver the scheme and maximise the benefits for our town. A re-elected Conservative administration will join with the University of Northampton in 2015 to mark the tenth anniversary of modern University status and the 750th anniversary of the University being disbanded by Henry III in 1265.

Castle Railway Station

The redevelopment of Castle Railway Station provides a new welcoming facility for rail users in Northampton but also opens up an area for development close to the town centre.

The new enhanced Railway Station will allow for future growth in rail travel and the multi storey car park being built will provide extra capacity for parking in the future.

Following the completion of the multi storey car park, a re-elected Conservative administration will develop the remaining site to further enhance the area.

Enterprise Zone

The Conservative administration was awarded an Enterprise Zone in August 2011 which has been the catalyst for economic investment and the creation for over 1,000 new jobs. Working with the Local Enterprise Partnerships, the Conservative administration has secured millions of pounds of investment and helped to create hundreds of new jobs.

Through the 'Northampton Alive' programme, the Conservative administration has also worked to keep local companies in Northampton by supporting Carlsberg to expand their bottling plant and create new jobs, **working with Church's Shoes to build a new factory on the St James Bus Depot site and create 150 new jobs, and supporting Cosworth to build a new factory in St James Industrial Estate and create 70 new jobs.** All of these businesses are located within the Enterprise Zone and a re-elected Conservative administration will develop and grow the Enterprise Zone and **secure Northampton's economic future.**

Broadband

Northampton Conservatives recognise the importance of a fast broadband internet connection for residents and businesses in the town. The Conservative administration worked with our Conservative colleagues on Northamptonshire County Council to improve the provision of broadband in Northampton by 2016. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to seek out opportunities to further improve broadband provision in the town.

Wi-Fi

To enhance the visitor experience in Northampton, Conservatives delivered publicly available free wi-fi in the town centre and a re-elected Conservative administration would continue to provide this service as a key facility in a modern town.

Market Square

The Market Square in Northampton has been the traditional heart of the town centre for over 825 years and should be supported so it remains a functioning part of daily life. Northampton Conservatives supported the Market Square traders by setting up an independently-chaired Market Advisory Group to involve Market traders in decisions, and with a 25% reduction in rent. A re-elected Conservative administration will retain the Market Advisory Group and will freeze rents for

Market traders for the full four years to keep current businesses and attract new stalls to the Market.

Greyfriars development

The Liberal Democrats signed a deal with Legal & General in 2009 as the sole developer for the Greyfriars site which bound the Conservative administration to work with them and held the town to ransom. As the Greyfriars site was demolished, it was clear that Legal & General did not intend to develop the site so Northampton Conservatives terminated the agreement.

Following the demolition of Greyfriars in March 2015, a re-elected Conservative administration will bring forward plans for the key site to enhance the town centre including a new coach facility which will be located on the western island site and close to the North Gate Bus Station and with good links to the town centre and other facilities.

Business Incentive Scheme

Conservatives set up a new fund of over £380,000 to support businesses to help open up vacant shops in the town centre, to improve the appearance of premises, and to help businesses looking to open or expand in Northampton. This has helped the growth of over 50 businesses to create over 200 new jobs and has unlocked over £2 million of private sector investment. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue with the Business Incentive Scheme over four years.

Town Centre BID

The Conservative administration has worked in partnership with the Town Centre Business Improvement District to improve the town centre and help businesses in the area. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support the BID, if there is a successful re-ballot of businesses in autumn 2015.

Brackmills BID

Northampton Conservatives welcomes the work done by the Brackmills Business Improvement District to improve the area for businesses on Brackmills and a re-elected Conservative administration will work with the Brackmills BID on their future plans.

Wellingborough Road and Kettering Road

Both Wellingborough Road and Kettering Road are key gateways to Northampton town centre and Northampton Conservatives believe they should be welcoming and encouraging for people and businesses. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with businesses there to encourage visitors and agree improvements.

Boris Bikes

The Cycle CoNNect bicycle hire scheme has proved popular since they were introduced by the Conservative administrations on Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council with other partners in 2014. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support the scheme and work to make them commercially profitable to ensure they continue beyond 2017.

Delapre Abbey

The restoration of Delapre Abbey a key priority for the Conservative administration who secured £7 million of funding towards this. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue with the restoration work to realise the potential for the benefit of the whole town. The history and heritage connected to the site will create an important tourist attraction and a Conservative administration will also ensure this includes a War of The Roses Centre to understand the historical importance of the site and welcoming refreshment facilities for visitors.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust and the Friends of Delapre Abbey as part of a wider commitment to the future of the Abbey and Delapre



parkland.

Northampton Conservatives remain committed to preserving and promoting the Battlefield site and understand the need to identify its correct site to properly protect it. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support plans for an archaeological survey of the area to better understand the heritage.

St James Mill Road

Northampton Conservatives understand the need to link St James Mill Road to improve traffic flows in the town which will help local residents and businesses by releasing traffic at peak times and on match days when The Saints and The Cobblers are playing. A re-elected Conservative administration will work with our Conservative colleagues at Northamptonshire County Council, the Local Enterprise Partnerships and central Government to ensure this link road is delivered as a key priority for the town.

St Edmund's

Northampton Conservatives have been frustrated by the slow development of the old derelict St Edmund's Hospital site. The Conservative administration worked with the developers and, after years of delay, plans are now underway to develop the site. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with the developers to ensure the plans are completed to bring an historic and iconic building at a key gateway to the town centre back to use.

Toilets

The Conservative administration recognises the need to balance providing toilets to the public as an important amenity for visitors with the need to keep them clean and safe. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to invest in public toilets in a way that provides the best value for the taxpayer.

River Nene

The River Nene runs through the centre of Northampton and the Conservative administration has incorporated it into the regeneration plans for the town with the Enterprise Zone, the opening of the new Marina, the Skateboard Park and café and **improvements to Becket's Park**. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to develop the riverside as plans for the new



University campus take shape, with events and activities that encourage visitors to come to the area.

Planning

It is vital that future housing growth in Northampton is properly planned. Northampton Conservatives understand that Northampton is a growing town but remain concerned that the infrastructure for transport and public services needs to come before development. The Conservative administration has become increasingly worried about developments on the edge of Northampton **which impact on the town's residents without a clear benefit.** A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to raise issues and concerns on infrastructure and will remain opposed to plans by neighbouring authorities to impose housing developments around the town. A re-elected Conservative administration will also continue to work towards a North West Bypass for the town to relieve traffic pressures and ease congestion.

Local energy supply

The Conservative administration announced plans for a new power plant on the Westbridge Depot to provide long term energy security for Northampton and lower energy bills for local residents. This would be the first time since 1975 that Northampton has produced its own energy locally in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to consult with local residents and ensure, before any final decision is made, that this offers the right solution for Northampton to provide energy security and support for local people with the right infrastructure in place.



Northampton Lift Tower

Northampton Conservatives recognise that the Lift Tower is an iconic local landmark that puts Northampton on the map. A re-elected Conservative administration will support exciting plans for an HD screen around the tower to be used to show images and videos that promote Northampton and the local area.

National Training Academy for Rail

The Conservative administration supports the Siemens National Training Academy for Rail at Kings Heath as a flagship skills development in traction and rolling stock to provide future workers for the national rail industry and serves as a vocational training hub for local young people. A re-elected Conservative administration will promote this important national resource as a key asset for Northampton.

Business Rates

Northampton Conservatives recognise that Business Rates are a concern for many local businesses and a re-elected Conservative administration will work with central Government to lobby for changes in the system following the current review by The Treasury so that the system benefits businesses and provide more local control.

Barrack Road school

The Conservative administration has supported plans by our Conservative colleagues on Northamptonshire County Council for the former sorting office on Barrack Road to be converted into the new Northampton International Academy which is expected to open in September 2016. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support these plans as part of a wider regeneration programme for the area and improvements in education provision across the town.

Boot and Shoe Quarter

The Conservative administration established the Boot and Shoe Quarter to recognise the important heritage of the area around **The Mounts which is the historic core of Northampton's boot and shoe industry.** A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to recognise the heritage of the Boot and Shoe Quarter and use this as a catalyst for the regeneration of the area to provide new housing opportunities and showcase its history.

Free car parking

Under the Conservative administration, the four Borough Council multi-storey car parks in the town centre offered free parking on Saturdays and Sundays and are free for two hours on weekdays. This has led to a 40% increase in the use of the car parks and an increase of 400,000 visitors to the town.

A re-elected Conservative administration will guarantee the free parking offer for four years to ensure the town continues to benefit from more visitors as easy access for motorists and convenient parking are key to a vibrant and thriving town centre.

This would mean parking remains free on Saturdays and Sundays and **for two hours on weekdays in the Mayorhold, St. Michael's, Grosvenor Centre and St John's multi storey car parks for the next four years.**

Northampton Conservatives recognise the need for more car parking as the town continues to grow and more people use the car parks for work and leisure. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue **with plans for an extension to be built to the St John's multi storey car park** to expand capacity and improve the car parking provision and will continue to review whether the free parking programme should be extended further to other car parks in the town centre.

Northampton Conservatives have invested in improving the town centre car parks including the installation of pay-as-you-leave

machines around the town to make it more convenient for visitors and so people only pay for any time they use. A re-elected Conservative administration would continue this programme to ensure that all remaining Borough Council car parks are fitted with pay-as-you-leave machines.

Town Centre Shopping Partnership

Northampton Conservatives recognise the enormous changes in retail habits over recent years with the increase in online shopping. The Conservative administration has succeeded in bringing more people back into Northampton through free parking and a wider range of events in the town centre.

However, small independent retailers and Market traders are at a disadvantage to national retailers who have a larger infrastructure and online presence.

A re-elected Conservative administration would set up a social enterprise to allow local retailers and Market traders to sell products online for delivery within Northampton and surrounding areas at a reduced cost. Any profits generated would be added to the Borough Council's voluntary sector funding allocation, on top of the money provided each year which will be set at a minimum of £550,000 each year for four years.

This scheme would allow local independent shops and Market traders to provide online shopping and local delivery as part of a commitment to support local businesses.

A COUNCIL WORKING HARD FOR YOU

With planned changes for further devolution in England, a re-elected Conservative administration will remain open to changes with new powers and structures in local government to ensure Northampton gets a fair deal for local taxpayers.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work together with other borough and district authorities and the Conservative-led Northamptonshire County Council to save taxpayers' money and provide quality service to local people where possible to join up services.

Northampton Conservatives have worked hard on behalf of the town with a track record of delivery and attendance at meetings in The Guildhall. Sadly the Labour Party has a poor attendance record so a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to publish the record of attendance for all councillors and monitor attendance of councillors.



KEY POLICIES

- Support the University of Northampton development plans
- Continue redevelopments at Northampton Castle railway station
- Develop and grow the Enterprise Zone
- Retain the Market Advisory Group and freeze rent for Market traders
- Bring forward development plans for the Greyfriars site
- Continue with Business Incentive Scheme for four years
- Support Business Improvement Districts in Town Centre and Brackmills
- Promote Wellingborough Road and Kettering Road as key gateways
- Support the Boris Bike scheme and make them commercially profitable
- Continue with redevelopment of Delapre Abbey supporting the Friends group, DAPT and create a War of the Rose Centre
- Ensure St James Mill Road link is delivered
- Work with developers to complete the **redevelopment of St Edmund's site**
- Planning policies to include infrastructure first and to oppose development plans on the edge of the borough
- **Guarantee the Borough Council's free parking offer for full four years**
- Continue installation of pay-as-you-leave machines in the Borough Council car parks
- Set up a social enterprise for local retailers to sell online for delivery to Northampton and surrounding areas



SAFE COMMUNITIES

Northampton Conservatives believe that everyone should feel safe and secure in their homes and communities, and will work with Northamptonshire Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other partners to combat crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic violence to ensure that Northampton is welcoming and safe.

CCTV

CCTV plays an important role in making people feel safe in our town centre and communities. Northampton has the most extensive CCTV networks in the country and, when used properly, it can be a valuable tool for maintaining public safety.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support the use of CCTV for community safety, and review its use to make sure that it is used most effectively.

Community Payback

The Conservative administration has worked with the Probation Service to make sure the Community Payback scheme is a visible opportunity for



offenders to be seen to be paying back the community.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with the Probation Service to use offenders to carry out work around the Borough.

Licensing

The licensing powers remain an important function of Northampton Borough Council in public safety and protection. The Conservative administration has used its licensing powers to protect the public against irresponsible and negligent businesses that cause a nuisance to the public or risk public safety, and has responded quickly to protect the public when it has needed to.

A re-elected Conservative administration will use all powers under the law and respond to changes in legislation and Government guidance to ensure that the people of Northampton are best protected.

Taxis

Northampton Conservatives recognise that people want to feel safe and secure travelling in taxis and private hire cars, and recognises the majority of drivers are responsible licence holders.

There is no excuse for drivers who fail to keep their vehicles roadworthy and in good condition so a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to carry out spot checks and take action against any drivers who flout the conditions of their licence whilst working with drivers who stick to the rules and provide a valuable public

service in the town.

Health and Wellbeing

The changes in legislation give the Borough Council an important role in the health and wellbeing of local people. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with health care professionals, GPs, and our Conservative colleagues at Northamptonshire County Council to collectively improve the public health outcomes and provisions for local people.

Night time economy

Northampton Conservatives share the concerns of many local people who worry about visiting the town centre in the evening.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with the Police and responsible licensed premises to ensure public safety, and that action is taken against irresponsible licencees.

Northampton Conservatives want the town centre to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone at all times of the day and night, and will take a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour.

Beggars and street drinking

Many people visiting the town centre find beggars and street drinkers intimidating. A re-elected Conservative administration will work with the Police and support agencies to ensure the town centre is friendly and safe, and appropriate help is given.

Chuggers

Responding to concerns of local people, the Conservative administration **reduced the time 'chuggers'** could operate in the town centre in 2012. Northampton Conservatives recognise this behaviour is intimidating to people visiting and working in the town centre, and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue

to take a hard line on this.

Community Hubs

The Conservative administration worked with Northamptonshire Police to create a Community Hub in Spring Boroughs to provide a Police presence and an office for Borough Council officers. A re-elected Conservative administration will look for similar opportunities across Northampton to engage with all communities.

Working with Communities

The Conservative administration has strongly supported the Borough Council's Forums to allow for public engagement and involvement with the work of the Borough Council from different sectors of society.

The Disabled People's Forum; the Diverse Communities Forum; the LGBTQ Forum and the Pensioners' Forum have all helped people in the town to engage with the work of the Borough Council, and the work of the Youth Forum was recognised with the National Diversity Award in 2012.

The Women's Forum was also introduced in 2012 and has marked the annual International Women's Day in March each year and introduced the Inspirational Woman of the Year Award in 2013.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support the Forums to allow people to have a voice in the decision making process and as a way of bringing together different sections of communities for the good of the town..

The Conservative administration has worked with Parish Councils and Residents Associations across Northampton, and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work closely with Parish Councils and Residents Associations to ensure local people are listened to.



KEY POLICIES

- Continue to support the use of CCTV to maintain public safety
- Support the Community Payback scheme to show offenders carrying out community service
- Use licensing powers to ensure the people of Northampton are best protected
- Work with the Police to reduce beggars and street drinking
- Take a hard line on intimidating behaviour by 'chuggers'
- Look to introduce more Community Hubs with the Police and other organisations around the town
- Support the Forums to work with communities



HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

Northampton Partnership Homes

The Conservative administration led a process of wide consultation with tenants which was widely supported by tenants and resulted in the creation of Northampton Partnership Homes, an Arms Length Management Organisation, to administer the Council's housing which came into effect in January 2015.

The Conservative administration increased tenant involvement and established Tenants' Panels and Service Improvement Panels which will continue under Northampton Partnership Homes.

A re-elected Conservative administration will remain committed to the town's housing tenants and will continue to support the work of Northampton Partnership Homes.

Sheltered Housing

Northampton Conservatives recognise the important role sheltered housing plays for vulnerable people and the support it gives to them and their families. The Borough Council's sheltered housing stock is now managed by Northampton Partnership Homes and a re-elected Conservative administration will work with residents and the Arms Length Management Organisation to ensure that the special role of sheltered housing is protected and continued in the future.

Northampton Conservatives recognise that, from time to time, the Sheltered Housing stock needs to be reviewed to ensure that it is fit for purpose but a re-elected Conservative administration will remain committed to the overall number of Sheltered Housing provided and will re-

-allocate or build new property to ensure that demand is met.

Conservatives have also secured the purchase of land at Lakeview to build up to 50 new sheltered homes for local people who want to live independently but require a home and neighbourhood that is suitable for their needs.

Decent Homes

The Conservative administration ensured that the Decent Homes programme was finalised and worked with tenants to create the 'Northampton Standard' which will be implemented by Northampton Partnership Homes. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with the ALMO to ensure every property meets the 'Northampton Standard'.

New Council houses

The Conservative administration announced plans for 100 new Council homes as part of a development on Dallington Grange which was the first major Council house building programme in over twenty years and will create new social housing for families.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to identify new opportunities to build new Council homes which will be managed by Northampton Partnership Homes.

Houses of Multiple Occupancy

Northampton Conservatives recognise the problems with Houses of Multiple Occupancy which has seen many family homes and neighbourhoods badly affected. The Conservative administration has introduced planning

zones around the town with specific rules on the conversion of homes, and an online register of Houses of Multiple Occupancy to ensure that all properties are properly licensed.

A re-elected Conservative administration will ensure all planning applications for Houses of Multiple Occupancy are automatically brought before the Planning Committee for a decision to protect local residents and communities.

Private rentals

The private rental housing market is important for many people living in Northampton and people want to know they are safe. Most landlords are reputable and responsible but it is important people know those who are not. The Conservative administration established a landlords forum to hear the views of landlords in the town.

The landlords forum will continue with a re-elected Conservative administration which will introduce a star rating system for the private rental sector in Northampton so the public can make informed decisions about where they live and reputable landlords can be better recognised.

Social Lettings Agency

Conservatives will also introduce a Social Lettings Agency for Northampton to work with private landlords to manage properties on their behalf and to use for temporary accommodation to help people with an urgent housing need and to reduce costs to the Council.

Rogue landlords

The Conservative administration has been tough on landlords who abuse their roles and responsibilities which has resulted in successful prosecution and enforcement action being taken. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to take a tough stance on rogue landlords and will prosecute anyone found acting illegally.

Travellers

Northampton Conservatives recognise that illegal traveller camps are upsetting and disturbing for local residents and communities, and has worked to secure Borough Council owned sites to prevent illegal camps and taken a zero-tolerance approach. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support residents and communities, and work with the Countywide Traveller Unit to ensure any illegal camps are evicted as quickly as

possible.

Homelessness

Northampton Conservatives recognise the traumatic impact homelessness can cause and have actively supported the organisations involved in helping the homeless through Oasis House which opened in 2012.

The Conservative administration has also supported Hope Enterprises by granting a long lease on Maple Buildings to deliver training, employment and other rehabilitation services.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support Oasis House and the partner organisations involved in delivering the best possible service to those vulnerable people who are homeless.

Call Care

The Borough Council's Call Care system helps support many elderly and vulnerable tenants and their families. A re-elected Conservative administration will safeguard this service and further extend it to private users to help subsidise the service and keep more residents safe.



KEY POLICIES

- Support Northampton Partnership Homes delivering a key service to housing tenants
- Protect the role of sheltered housing
- Purchase land at Lakeview to build up to 50 new sheltered homes for local people
- Identify new opportunities to build new Council houses
- Protect residents against Houses of Multiple Occupancy and bring all planning applications to Committee
- Introduce a star rating system for private landlords
- Create a Social Lettings Agency working with private landlords
- Take tough stance on rogue landlords
- Zero-tolerance on travellers
- Safeguard Call Care service and further extend Call Care to private users



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Northampton Conservatives recognise that Northampton has fantastic green and open spaces, and want to see the town clean and attractive for visitors and maintained to the highest possible standards.

Parks and Green spaces

Under the Conservative administration, over £14 million was invested in the town's parks and green spaces and Abington Park and Delapre Park were both awarded Green Flag status by Keep Britain Tidy. A re-elected Conservative administration will retain our commitment to ensuring our parks and greens spaces are welcoming and maintained to the highest possible standards for the benefit of the whole community, and strive to retain or secure 'Green Flag' status in our parks.

Waste collections

The waste recycling contract with Enterprise ends in 2018. The Conservative administration was bound by terms agreed by the Liberal Democrats in 2011 and the contract did not allow all the provisions that Conservatives believe are needed for the people of the town.



A re-elected Conservative administration will review all options, including who provides our waste services to get the best deal for local taxpayers, a review of weekend collections and to look options for lids on recycling boxes.

Park Management Committees

The Conservative administration introduced Park Management Committees to our premier parks to allow local communities to have a stake in how our parks are managed and developed. A re-elected Conservative administration will retain the Park Management Committee structure but continue to review them to ensure that each Committee plays a relevant role to address the specific needs of each park and area.

Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers

The Conservative administration re-introduced Neighbourhood Wardens which were axed by the Liberal Democrats, and increased the number from 9 in 2011 to 15.

Conservatives also introduced Park Rangers to the town's parks and green spaces. Three Park Rangers were introduced in September 2011 and the number was increased to 4 Park Rangers in 2012. The number was further increased in 2013 and there are now 6 Park Rangers.

The Administration remains committed to providing Neighbourhood Wardens across the Borough as an important frontline support to communities, and local parish councils and residents associations.

Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers have worked together with local communities to assist with clean-ups and planting days. They also now have access to four wheel drive vehicles to help carry out patrols and to make them more effective.

A re-elected Conservative administration will remain committed to providing Neighbourhood Wardens operating across the Borough and will protect the number of Park Rangers.

Town Centre cleaning

Northampton Conservatives recognise that a clean, welcoming town centre is important with the wider regeneration of Northampton to attract visitors and shoppers. The Conservative administration have worked with the Town Centre Business Improvement District to improve the cleanliness of the town centre by introducing new equipment to remove chewing gum and more regular cleaning. A re-elected Conservative administration will remain committed to working with partners to keep the town centre clean and welcoming.

Dog fouling

Conservatives share the concerns of residents who complain about those irresponsible dog owners who ruin public open spaces by not clearing up after their pets.

A re-elected Conservative administration will take a zero-tolerance approach by prosecuting those responsible for this anti-social behaviour. Northampton Borough Council will play its part by providing an adequate number of bins for dog owners to use.

Fly-tipping

The Conservative administration has a zero-tolerance policy on fly-tipping which has led to 30

prosecutions since 2011. A re-elected Conservative administration will retain a zero-tolerance approach to remove fly-tipping quickly and to actively prosecute those responsible.

Northampton in Bloom

The flower displays provided during Northampton in Bloom are an attractive feature which helps improve the look of the town. The Conservative administration has worked with partners to extend the flower displays to include different displays in spring, summer and winter and to engage with community groups and organisations to encourage pride in our neighbourhoods. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue with the Northampton in Bloom scheme to make the town look more attractive and to involve the public, and will seek ways to improve this year on year.

Allotments

Northampton Conservatives remain committed to the provision of allotments throughout the town and recognise the good work done by the Northampton Allotment Network to support residents and voice their concerns. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support the provision of allotments as a way of environmentally sustainable living.

Events in parks

Northampton Conservatives increased the summer programme for Bands in the Park in Abington Park to twelve weeks. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to provide this extended programme from April to September.

The Conservative administration introduced popular events to the town's parks like the 'Alive at Delapre' music concerts in Delapre Park and the 'On the Waterfront' event in Becket's Park. Conservatives also saved the popular Delapre Beer Festival when it was set to be cancelled in 2013 and re-introduced the Firework Display to Midsummer Meadow. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to provide a wide range of events in the town's parks.

Trees

Residents often have problems with trees on public land which can cause a nuisance or damage to property. A re-elected Conservative administration will undertake a Borough-wide review of trees on Borough Council land to inform a programme of tree maintenance or removal where they are causing a problem. Local residents will be invited to be actively involved in this decision process to ensure any decision is properly supported by the majority of local residents affected.

Gateways to Northampton

A re-elected Conservative administration will work with other authorities including Northamptonshire County Council and the Highways Agency to ensure that key gateways to the town, such as the A45 approach to Northampton, are properly kept and provide a clean welcome to Northampton.



KEY POLICIES

- Maintain high standards in our parks and green spaces and aim for Green Flag awards
- Retain Park Management Committees and ensure they address specific park needs
- Retain Neighbourhood Wardens and safeguard Park Rangers
- Review waste contract to ensure the best service for the people of Northampton
- Commit to town centre cleaning regime
- Zero-tolerance to fly-tipping and dog fouling
- Continue with Northampton in Bloom
- Support residents wanting an allotment
- Commit to Bands in Park programme in Abington Park and wide range of events programme in all parks
- Carry out a Borough-wide review of trees and consult with affected residents on maintenance and removal programme



SPENDING YOUR MONEY WISELY

Northampton Conservatives believe that **taxpayers' money should be** prioritised on front line services, and that management and back office costs such as HR and IT should be kept to a minimum. Under the Lib Dems more and more money was channelled away from frontline services and spent on increasing numbers of senior managers and back office staff.

Conservatives worked hard to change this and froze councillor allowances for four years. There are now fewer senior managers and back office staff through shared services with Northamptonshire County Council, saving taxpayers £9 million over five years. With these savings, Conservatives have increased frontline staff such as Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers.

Council Tax

The Conservative administration did **not increase the Borough Council's** share of Council Tax throughout the four year term to help hardworking people in Northampton. The reductions in senior management costs and other efficiencies through shared services meant there was no reduction in



frontline services. A re-elected Conservative administration will always seek to freeze Council Tax and will work **with central Government and the town's** MPs to keep Council Tax low and ensure Northampton gets the best deal from Westminster.

Living Wage

Conservatives introduced the Living Wage to all directly employed Borough Council employees in April 2015 and a re-elected Conservative administration will retain the commitment for four years.

Senior Management

The Conservative administration kept its manifesto commitment of reducing the number of senior managers to ensure funding was prioritised to frontline services. The cost of senior management was reduced by 50% since 2011 with the number of senior managers cut from 21 to 10 and total pay and remuneration for senior managers was cut by half saving over £800,000. A re-elected Conservative administration will keep all senior management under constant review and keep numbers low.

Apprenticeships

Northampton Conservatives introduced an apprenticeship scheme in 2012 at

Northampton Borough Council to give young people the opportunity to learn new skills and gain qualifications. A re-elected Conservative administration will remain committed to providing apprenticeships.

Consultants

Northampton Conservatives believe that money on consultants should be used carefully and only when absolutely necessary. The Conservative administration introduced a **'Consultants Register'** on the Borough Council's website to allow the public to monitor how much has been spent on consultants. A re-elected Conservative administration will retain a transparent approach to the use of consultants so the public can see how money is being spent and limit their use.

Supporting local businesses to do work with the Council

Northampton Conservatives believe **local taxpayers'** money should be spent supporting local business wherever possible. Procurement rules and regulations sometimes make this difficult, but a re-elected Conservative administration will retain a commitment to support local businesses when awarding contracts, and help them to understand the procurement rules and process.

Assets and properties

Conservatives used Council assets and properties to help with community projects and bring in additional funds to the Council. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to look for opportunities to enable communities and projects to take place.

KEY POLICIES

- Seek not to increase Council Tax and always keep Council Tax low
- Keep senior management number under review and low
- Retain Living Wage commitment to directly employed staff
- Support apprenticeship schemes across the Borough Council
- Retain transparent approach on consultants and limit their use
- Support local businesses who want to work with the Council



LOVE NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Conservatives believe the town is stronger because of its cultural, sport and historic links and the Conservative administration has worked hard to promote them within the town and support key organisations which enhance the leisure activities for local people.

Cultural Quarter

The Conservative administration was instrumental in establishing the Cultural Quarter as part of the economic regeneration of the town and has actively supported the organisations involved. Through the Cultural Quarter Forum, the Borough Council has encouraged wider collaboration between the organisations and closer working together. A re-elected Conservative administration will work with the Cultural Quarter partners to provide a vibrant, exciting and welcoming offer for visitors to the town to boost numbers and stimulate the local economy.

Theatres

The Royal and Derngate Theatres remain a massive asset to the cultural and economic life of Northampton which brings thousands of visitors to the town. Northampton Conservatives fully support the Theatres and applaud the work that has been done to ensure that the productions remain at the forefront of nationally acclaimed theatre and are well managed. The addition of the Errol Flynn Filmhouse, which was funded by the Conservative administration at the Borough Council, has confirmed the position as a major visitor destination and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to fully support The Royal and Derngate

Theatres throughout the next four years.

The Conservative administration also supported the addition of the Looking Glass Theatre in to the Cultural Quarter and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support their work and attract new and innovative partners to the Cultural Quarter.

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery

The Conservative administration has invested heavily in the development of the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and plans are underway for a major expansion. The plans will double the size of the exhibition space, create new galleries, teaching facilities and include a new shoe shop and restaurant which will attract visitors to the Cultural Quarter and position Northampton as a leading museum focussed on history, **art and the town's footwear heritage.**

A re-elected Conservative administration will consider options for the creation of a Museums Trust to administer the Museum Service on behalf of the Council.

78 Derngate

The Rennie Mackintosh House at 78 Derngate is an important example of the **architect's work outside of Scotland** and attracts visitors from around the country. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to actively support the work of the 78 Derngate Trust and welcomes plans for the hundredth anniversary celebrations in 2016 which will be a boost for visitors.

Creative Industries Hub

The Conservative administration has announced plans for a major redevelopment of the former Vulcan Works on Guildhall Road to provide a creative industries hub within the Enterprise Zone to create 240 jobs over the next ten years. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to deliver these plans and bring an historic building in the heart of the town back into use.

NN Arts Collective

The Conservative administration helped the Arts Collective to relocate within the Cultural Quarter on Guildhall Road. Northampton Conservatives recognise the work done by the Arts Collective to promote modern art and culture in our town, and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support their work.

Boutique Hotel

The Conservative administration worked with private developers to create a boutique hotel on Guildhall Road to enhance the offer within the Cultural Quarter. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with the owners to provide a welcoming destination for visitors to the town.

Abington Park Museum

The Conservative administration recognises the importance of Abington Park Museum as a key visitor attraction **in the heart of one of the town's** beautiful parks and has invested in restoring the building. Plans have been announced for a major refurbishment of **the Museum focussing on the building's** connection with William Shakespeare and the history of the Northamptonshire regiments. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to deliver these plans and recognise the possibilities of using the building for weddings, exhibitions and other events to maintain the building.

Sports clubs

Northampton Conservatives have built **up good relations with the town's** sporting clubs which reached an all-time low under the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservative administration worked actively with The Cobblers to allow for the redevelopment of Sixfields Stadium by providing a £12 million loan. The loan allowed for the redevelopment of the Stadium with a new stand and for the building of a new hotel, conference facilities and 255 new homes in the area.



Northampton Conservatives worked with The Saints to provide a £5 million loan to allow for **the redevelopment of Franklin's Gardens** which will take place in the summer 2015. A re-elected Conservative administration will also work with The Saints to ensure Northampton capitalises on England hosting the Rugby World Cup in 2015.

To mark the centenary of their deaths during the First World War, a re-elected Conservative **administration will work with the town's sports clubs** to honour former Saints player, Edgar Mobbs in 2017, and former Cobblers player, Walter Tull in 2018.

The Conservative administration actively supported Northamptonshire County Cricket Club and a re-elected Conservative administration will work with The County Cricket Club to ensure Northampton benefits from the Cricket World Cup in 2019 which is being hosted by England and Wales.

As part of the redevelopment at Sixfields Stadium, the Conservative administration supported the building of a new athletics track at Moulton College as the home of the Athletics Club. As part of the 2012 Olympics legacy, Northampton Conservatives recognise the importance of supporting sports clubs such as the Athletics Club to promote young and upcoming athletes in our area and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support the Club in partnership with Moulton College.

A re-elected Conservative administration will remain committed to good working **relationships with all of the town's sporting clubs** as key partners in bringing people to Northampton and as a source of pride for local people.



Match day parking

Parking on match days continues to be an issue for residents around the sports stadiums and a re-elected Conservative administration will continue to liaise between the sports clubs and with Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire Police to ensure traffic can flow easily and local residents are affected as little as possible.

A re-elected Conservative administration will work with our Conservative colleagues at Northamptonshire County Council, the Local Enterprise Partnerships and central Government to ensure this link for St James Mill Road is delivered as a key priority.

Tourism

The Conservative administration introduced the Love Northampton website dedicated to promoting events and venues across the town. Since its launch, the Love Northampton website has helped to promote over 2,000 events at around 100 venues and has also supported over 450 shops, business and restaurants across the town. In February 2013, the Love Northampton tourist guide was published supported by sponsorship from local businesses. It proved popular and was republished in 2014 and 2015. The Love Northampton app has also helped to promote the town.

A re-elected Conservative administration will remain committed to **promoting Northampton as a tourist destination and all of the town's events and venues**, as part of the wider strategy to support the local economy.

Celebrating the town's heritage

Northampton has an amazing history and heritage which the Conservative administration has worked with partners to celebrate through projects at the Heritage Gateway promoting the site of **Northampton Castle, St Peter's Church, Eastgate and the North Gate at The Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue this work to promote the history of the town and work with partners including the Friends of Northampton Castle.

Northampton Conservatives recognise the importance of honouring its past and prominent citizens. A re-elected Conservative administration will sponsor a four year science scholarship at the University of Northampton from 2016 to commemorate the centenary of the birth in Northampton of Francis Crick who discovered the structure of DNA.

2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the mayoralty of Northampton and the signing of the Magna Carta. A re-elected Conservative administration will ensure these events are properly marked to pass on **Northampton's important history on to the next generation**.

Community Centres

The Conservative administration worked actively with community groups and organisations to transfer the management of our community centres to local groups to ensure that they remain in the hands of local people to best meet their needs. A re-elected Conservative administration will work with the management organisations to ensure that communities continue to benefit from these facilities into the future, and wherever possible, look to bring other buildings back into community use, and to work with the community groups and organisations to ensure the community centres are well maintained and repaired.

Leisure Trust

Northampton Conservatives recognise the important role the Northampton Leisure Trust plays in the health and wellbeing of the town. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to work with the Northampton Leisure Trust and will seek out further opportunities to work together.

Armed Forces Community Covenant

The Conservative administration introduced the Community Covenant for Northampton in March 2013, signed by partner organisations to recognise the important role played by our Armed Forces. The Community Covenant includes a commitment to mark important events like the annual Armed Forces Day in June and Remembrance Sunday in November but also to support serving members, veterans and their families through housing and other services provided by the Borough Council and its partners. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to actively support the aims of the **Armed Forces Community Covenant and ensure the Borough Council's policies** work to help members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families, and will extend it to introduce a Business Community Covenant for local businesses to show their support.

The Freedom of the Borough was also granted to The Royal Lancers in 2012 to recognise their service. A re-elected Conservative administration will also ensure the proper commemoration of military events including the 70th anniversary of VE-Day in May 2015, the 70th anniversary of VJ-Day in August 2015, the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in September 2015, the 65th anniversary of the end of the Korean War in July 2018, the centenary commemorations of the First World War including the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November 2018 and the 75th anniversary of D-Day in June 2019.

Events

Events are an important way of attracting people to the town and boosting the local economy. A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to deliver a wide range of events and activities and **pledges to continue the St Crispin's Fair and annual fireworks display** for the next four years and ensure that the Delapre Beer Festival goes **ahead. Other annual events on the town's calendar including** Remembrance Sunday, Armed Forces Day, the Christmas celebrations, Holocaust Memorial Day, events to mark World AIDS Day and the Heritage Open Weekend will also continue.

A re-elected Conservative administration would support the Northampton Festival of Water in August 2015 to mark the 200th anniversary of the Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

Northampton Conservatives will also continue to support other organisations with their events such as the Diwali lights procession with the Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation, events for Chinese New Year and the Northampton Carnival.

One Stop Shop

The Conservative administration has opened up the One Stop Shop at The Guildhall to a wider range of services to help people resolve their issues in one location including the Northamptonshire Credit Union and an enquiry desk for Northamptonshire Police.

Northampton Conservatives recognise that many people work during **the week and so have worked to enable many of the Borough Council's** services to be accessible via the website. However, this is not always convenient so a re-elected Conservative administration will extend the opening hours of the One Stop Shop at The Guildhall to open on Saturday mornings.

A re-elected Conservative administration will continue to support Northamptonshire Credit Union within the One Stop Shop to ensure vulnerable people have easy access to proper financial advice as part of a broader commitment to combat loan sharks and those affected by payday loans.

Councillor Community Fund

The Conservative administration introduced the Councillor Community Fund to provide a budget of £3,000 per year to each councillor to allocate to community organisations or projects.



The Councillor Community Fund has been a popular scheme and has enabled individual councillors to direct thousands of pounds of funding where it will do the most good in their communities. A re-elected Conservative administration will retain the Councillor Community Fund for four years and encourage even more groups and organisations to apply.

Voluntary sector funding

During the last four years, the Conservative administration allocated a total budget of £2.2 million for community and voluntary groups and 96 organisations benefited from the scheme. A re-elected Conservative administration will retain the scheme and ensure that funding continues to support the voluntary sector in Northampton.

The level of funding will be set at a minimum of £550,000 per year with any additional money generated through the Town Centre Shopping Partnership.

KEY POLICIES

- Work with the Cultural Quarter partners to provide a vibrant, exciting and welcoming offer for visitors
- Consider Museum Trust for Northampton
- Redevelop the Vulcan Works
- **Support the town's sports clubs and** continue to address match day parking issues
- Promote tourism for Northampton
- **Celebrate the town's history and heritage**
- Ensure Armed Forces Community Covenant continues as a key Council policy and introduce Business Community Covenant
- Provide a wide range of diverse events **including St Crispin's Fair and fireworks**
- Open One Stop Shop at The Guildhall on Saturday mornings
- Retain Councillor Community Fund
- Safeguard support for the voluntary sector

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