

The Conservative Manifesto for the Southend Borough Council.

Southend Borough Council
elections 3rd May 2018

PUTTING SOUTHEND FIRST: A RECORD OF ACTION, A PROMISE OF MORE...

In 2016, the Conservatives took control of Southend Council from an Independent/Labour/Lib Dem Administration that delivered poor quality services and wasted spending. We have reversed their ill thought out policies and created a Southend that people want to live, visit and work.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS INCLUDE:

- Kept our weekly waste collection which was under threat from the last Independent Party/Labour/Lib Dem Administration.
- Ensured your waste gets collected on time, whilst the last Administration left the town looking like it was in the middle of a 1970's industrial dispute.
- Reversed the last Administrations policy of closing public toilets and removing litter bins in residential areas.
- Froze the charges for the garden waste recycling service for over 19,000 households.
- Invested significantly in our roads and footpaths.
- Increased the number of parking spaces on the seafront.
- Stopped the last Administration's policy of buying property in other boroughs to move Southend residents.
- Promised not to build a 7ft sea wall at Shoebury Common and invested in flood defences across the borough.
- £2 Million further investment in the Pier.
- Put an extra £1.2Million into Children's Services to help deal with Children most in need within the town.
- Street lights remain on in Southend with our investment in L.E.D. Lighting.
- Over £15Million for new homes invested as part of the Better Queensway project.
- An additional 6 new flats added to social housing stock
- A new specialist unit for rough sleepers with mental health issues opened.
- An additional 50 local children a year are attending our grammar schools, and we committing £200,000 a year for school improvement.

Our pledges to you, if we are elected:

QUALITY VALUE FOR MONEY SERVICES

- We pledge to keep Council Tax as low as possible.
- We pledge to reduce the number of cabinet positions from 8 to 7.
- We pledge to invest in digital technology to allow the Council to deliver higher quality and more convenient 24/7 services.
- We pledge that all decisions will be made in an open transparent manner by elected councillors and never make decisions in the pursuit of a good sound bite or if it makes a good headline in the local press.

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

- We pledge to retain our weekly waste collection.
- We pledge to never close public toilets open or remove litter bins in residential areas.
- We pledge to improve the cleanliness of our streets.
- We pledge to ensure our beaches, parks and open spaces are cleaned and maintained regularly.



Conservatives

HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE

- We pledge to ensure that older people in Southend continue to receive dignity in care.
- We pledge to ensure that the Adult Social Care budget is sufficiently resourced to meet demand.
- We pledge to invest and improve our sheltered housing stock and ensure that no Sheltered Housing is closed.
- We pledge to never support the closure of Southend Hospital A&E to hold the NHS representatives to account, ensuring any changes to Southend Hospital have supporting evidence and improve outcomes for our residents.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- We pledge to continue to support Grammar School education in Southend.
- We pledge to continue the investment in play equipment in our parks and open spaces.
- We pledge to keep Children's Centres open where there is a demand.
- We pledge to continue to support and invest in our adoption and fostering service to provide homes for those in care.
- We pledge to work towards a target of every child attending a good or outstanding school.

COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

- We pledge that elected Conservative councillors will attend Police Community Meetings to put residents concerns to local policing teams.
- We pledge to work with the Essex Police & Crime Commissioner to provide additional visible and active policing in our communities to reverse rising anti-social behaviour.
- We pledge to continue the investment in LED lighting to ensure that all of our 13,000 street lights remain switched on at night to keep our roads safe.

TRANSPORT

- We pledge to continue the capital investment in the repair and re-surfacing of our roads and pavements.
- We pledge to keep car parking charges as low as possible and where possible reduce them.
- We pledge to improve The Bell junction on the A127 and deliver a new footbridge at the Kent Elms junction on the A127.
- We pledge to find a long term solution to the damage done to our pavements and verges caused by irresponsible parking

LEISURE & TOURISM

- We pledge to continue to invest in our sea front to ensure Southend remains a top visitor attraction.
- We pledge to deliver £300,000 of improvements to Shoebury Common
- We pledge to make sure Southend becomes an all year round visitor destination.
- We pledge to invest in the Pier due to it's importance to the town.

HOUSING

- We pledge to maintain a fire safe environment across our social housing stock and encourage similar action from private landlords.
- We pledge to work with South Essex Homes to have more socially rented housing and ensure all social housing remains at the decent homes standard.
- We pledge to use a newly created Housing Company to seek out maximum housing opportunities for local people.
- We pledge to look at all ways of eradicating rough sleeping in the town.
- We pledge to keep Council rents as low as practically possible.