



# Conservative Democracy In Action

## ARE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ELECTIONS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Fareham Conservatives say they are and for the following reasons, it is most important that everyone takes the time to vote in the forthcoming elections on June 4th. Why should you vote? Well, the County Council plays a very full part in many aspects of your life, ranging from the quality of children's education to care in old age. Together with many other responsibilities, it looks after Hampshire's highways, libraries, country parks, waste disposal and in part, controls the pattern of future development. Funded by you through Government taxation and council taxes it spends over a billion pounds of your money annually. It is a very large organisation indeed.

If you have any problems about voting at the polling station, Postal Vote application forms are available from Fareham Borough Council, 01329 236100. Don't leave it until the last day for applications on the 19th of May!

With a population of 1.28 million, Hampshire is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest county in England. The Conservative led county council has:

- 37,000 employees
- A £1,600,000,000 budget
- £200 million Capital Programme
- 534 Schools with 170,000 children
- 95,000 vulnerable adults and children in social care
- 6,000 miles of road maintenance
- 800,000 tonnes of waste (only 17% to landfill)
- 50,000 homes fed with electricity from waste
- 81 Libraries and 19 mobile units
- 6,000 acres of land for strategic gaps and Country Parks
- Council Tax in lowest quartile in England (lowest in the South East)
- Lowest grant from Government in the land
- One of the highest performances in the land
- Education and Social Care rated at or very near the top
- Environment and Recreation and Heritage rated as Excellent



## LOWEST COUNCIL TAX INCREASE FOR 40 YEARS!



**Ken Thornber**  
Leader of Hampshire County Council

**Conservative controlled Hampshire County Council's tax rise this year is the lowest for 40 years at a below inflation rate of just 1.9% - with the promise that it will be no higher next year provided Conservatives are re-elected.**

Hampshire County Council provides vital services to over 1.2 million residents every day. The county's ageing population, and

increasing numbers of adults with physical or learning difficulties, is placing a growing burden on our social care system. Despite ever more directives and disappointingly low levels of grant from central government the Conservative-run authority has been awarded a **four star rating** by the independent Audit Commission. **This is the highest possible rating** and it is the seventh year in a row that our County Council has earned this accolade.

### WHAT A CONTRAST!

Here in Fareham we are set to pay far less this year for our services compared with residents in neighbouring Gosport. A succession of Liberal Democrat regimes in Gosport, occasionally propped up by Labour over the past 15 years, has seen their local taxes rise consistently above inflation. And with no discernable improvement in services.

Council tax 2008/9		
	Gosport	Fareham
Band A property	£135.21	£93.54
Band B property	£157.35	£109.13
Band C property	£180.28	£124.72
Band D property	£202.82	£140.31
Band E property	£247.89	£171.49

Compare that with unbroken Conservative control over the same period here in neighbouring Fareham and the contrast could not be more stark.

### Tim Knight to stand for re-election

We are delighted to report that County Councillor Tim Knight has again been chosen to stand as the Stubbington and Hill Head Conservative Candidate for the County Council elections on the 4th of June.

Tim's dedication, persistence and experience (now Vice Chairman of the County Council) make him the right choice to represent you. He fully deserves your support at the elections.

