



Slough Conservative Association

Manifesto 2015



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Our Vision - A TOWN THAT WORKS FOR ALL

SCA, PO BOX 3958, Slough, SL3 3GH

www.sloughconservatives.org.uk

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Your Conservative candidates are committed to working all year round to make sure that our town becomes a great place to live and work. We want to ensure that residents get value for money from Slough Borough Council (SBC) and, as a result, you will get to keep more of your hard-earned money to spend on your needs. We believe that you know how to spend your money better than the Council does, and that SBC has a track-record of waste and inefficiency that shows it cannot be trusted to get things right first-time without councillors who will stand up for your interests.

. Thanks to years of Labour's financial incompetence and internal fighting Slough has been in decline for many years. The Slough Conservatives promise to reverse this decline.

Just ask yourself

"Why is it that our High Street has become an embarrassment for residents?"

"Why do we no longer have a University campus?"

"Why do we suffer from a congested road network despite having millions spent on it?"

"Why don't we have enough school places?"

"Why has Slough got fewer doctors per head, despite more NHS funding and us being less healthy, than people in neighbouring areas?"

"Why did Ofsted deem SBC's children's services so inadequate that the Government has had to take them over?"

"Why is Slough's tax payer's money not being spent fairly across the town?"

You can change this by voting Conservative and voting for a Town that Works for All!

Just as the Conservatives sorted out the national economy, your Slough Conservatives can fix the Council ensuring it works for all and not the few.

In Conservative-run Windsor and Maidenhead they have found a way to cut Council Tax six years running without cutting frontline Council services, and making their towns better places to live in. Slough Conservatives are motivated to do the same for you!

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FINANCE AND COUNCIL EFFICIENCY

- Cut Council Tax by a minimum 1% in 2016 and a minimum of 3% over a 4-year term
- Simplify and merge the structure of the Council's senior management along the lines that Windsor & Maidenhead have, to reduce costs by removing duplication and improve responsiveness by merging departments that work in siloes working to deliver better outcomes for residents.
- By cutting back on waste, duplication and inefficiency we will divert these resources into front line services.
- Raise Council Tax collection rates, reduce Council write-offs of Business Rates and tighten controls on benefit fraud to ensure a fair deal for residents by having councillors who have more
- Avoid above inflation increases in fees and charges, especially for unsubsidised services
- Drive out waste and inefficiency in all Council processes to improve customer service and outcomes in service delivery
- Improve customer satisfaction through a process of outcome based contracts which will see continuous improvement and an adoption of a right-first-time approach.
- Change the Council's current electoral cycle to a 4-year term or halves every two years, to reduce costs and disruption of services, and stop all councillors being unable to pursue casework for nearly two months virtually every year because of the Purdah period and the changing make-up of the Council

CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Improve out-of-hours responses for urgent and emergency council functions when offices are closed
- More support for residents who experience anti-social behaviour, improving the response time for resolution of problems
- Not to house people with ASB records near the elderly and disabled
- Support victims of child trafficking, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage with the aim of bringing about criminal prosecutions
- Giving more support to residents that wish to set up neighbourhood watch groups and Neighbourhood Action Groups.
- We will not allow Councillors who have been convicted of a crime or have fallen below the standards of the council's own policy to sit as Cabinet member or Councillor.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- Remove failed traffic management schemes that are adding to congestion on Slough's roads, and change Chalvey Road East and West back to 2-way traffic to benefit residents and businesses
- Restrict Highways spending to essentials like fixing potholes or improving traffic flows, including bringing back bus laybys
- Simplify signage and signals to get Slough's traffic moving again
- Create a Transport Scrutiny Committee bringing together councillors and road users such as driving instructors and taxi firms.
- Listen to bus users; seek enhancements to bus services where possible
- Improve Slough Bus station to offer better toilet facilities for all and more protection for customers from bad weather
- Reverse the cut in the Council's provision of concessionary bus passes for pensioners and their carers

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ADULT SERVICES

- Plan with health partners accountable to SBC to spend our extra per capita funding on increasing GP numbers by two-thirds (same as Windsor & Maidenhead) over the next 5 years.
- Fight for local health facilities to be maintained and enhanced across the borough, not cut, removed or “centralized” to other places
- Encourage older residents to stay in their own homes for longer through better targeted support and easier downsizing options
- Help to introduce accommodation for people with learning difficulties close to where they work and/or where their care networks are
- Merge key Slough council departments to offer a more joined up approach in increasing better outcomes for adults.

ENVIRONMENT

- Protect Slough’s Green Belt lands from developers and improve public access
- Better inform residents about sustainability, grants and discount schemes available
- Encourage Slough resident energy “buying clubs” to procure cheaper gas and electricity for all residents
- Review the energy consumption of Slough Borough Council to minimise energy use to help the environment and reduce operating costs
- Support introduction of additional dog bins where justified and increase action against dog fouling
- Plant more trees and woodland
- Introduce harsher fines and penalties for people who litter and spit in our streets and parks.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

- Create more high quality housing in Slough by converting empty office space
- Reduce the turn-round time for putting empty social housing back into use
- Work with SBC tenants and leaseholders to create independent and accountable structures to protect and improve housing services
- Work to ensure planning policy is fair and transparent to all with no special privileges
- Introduce investment schemes to offer more and better quality, cost-effective private rented homes managed by approved providers
- Work with specialist housing providers to make more affordable housing available for people with disabilities and complex daily living needs such as those with autism
- Strengthen enforcement against planning infringements
- Create a register of all unlicensed houses in multiple occupation to improve standards in the unlicensed private rented sector and ensure higher standards of safety and habitation

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EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- Ensure all money given by Central Government for Education is spent on Education
- Review provision of school places out-of-borough as well as internally to ensure Slough parents are not being disadvantaged
- Support local applications for Free Schools to provide sufficient spaces for Slough pupils in Slough
- Encourage all School Governing bodies of maintained schools to recruit Head Teachers from Good or Outstanding schools
- Bringing back a University campus to Slough
- We will abolish the Cabinet position of Children Services until the function returns to Slough council. This money will be reinvested in front line services in protecting Children.

LEISURE AND LIBRARIES

- Enhance Slough's parklands, including raising the number of free tennis courts to the level of five years ago
- Bring the changing rooms built on Eltham Avenue, Cippenham, into operational service without further delay
- Improve Slough's library and arts provision
- Ensure more sporting facilities are evenly distributed across Slough and more facilities are directed towards Langley and Upton

Conservatives believe in working in partnership with Slough's parish councils and voluntary sector organizations – helping them to do more to help you – creating a stronger community spirit and offering greater mutual support.

Wal Chahal
Conservative Group Leader

Dexter Smith
SCA Chairman

Gurcharan Singh
Parliamentary Candidate

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