

**MEDWAY CONSERVATIVES**  
Our Pledges to the residents of Medway  
2011

# **LOW COUNCIL TAX BETTER SERVICES VALUE FOR MONEY**

[www.medwayconservativegroup.co.uk](http://www.medwayconservativegroup.co.uk)



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# DELIVERING THE CHANGES WE PROMISED



## WE PROMISED

## WE DELIVERED

We promised to keep Council Tax low

We've frozen Council Tax and maintained the lowest Council Tax in Kent, which is £130 less than the average across the county

We pledged to protect front line services

We've maintained our key services including Sure Start, libraries, leisure centres and swimming pools

We promised to maintain the weekly bin collection

We've kept the weekly collection and fought off plans by the former Labour government to introduce fortnightly collection and pay as you throw schemes

We said we'd introduce the under 16s half price bus fare

We've introduced it and expanded it to include students under 18. We've also announced plans to move towards a Freedom Pass

We promised to make our community safer

We have strengthened our Community Safety Team, reduced anti-social behaviour and 85% of residents tell us they feel safer

We said we'd protect Medway's Grammar Schools

Our Grammar Schools continue to offer excellent educational opportunities

You asked us to safeguard Capstone Valley and our open spaces

We continue to oppose the building of 9,000 houses on Capstone Valley even though the previous Labour government forced us to consider it

We pledged to make the environment better

We've expanded our recycling scheme and improved our graffiti removal teams

We gave a commitment to provide easily accessible services

We've introduced council offices called Contact Points in each of our five towns and improved our libraries

# **OUR 6 PLEDGES FOR MEDWAY'S RESIDENTS**

## **1. LOW COUNCIL TAX & VALUE FOR MONEY**

### **OUR PLEDGES ARE:**

- Council Tax frozen for 2 years and we will retain the lowest Council Tax, which is on average £130 lower than the rest of Kent
- Car parking charges frozen for past 3 years and we will ensure they remain amongst the lowest in Kent
- Retain and improve front line services such as care for the elderly, libraries and expand community hubs
- Ask the Independent Remuneration Panel to reduce councillors' allowances

## **2. DELIVERING COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE POLICE WE ARE COMMITTED TO:**

- Continuing to tackle anti-social behaviour and alcohol related issues
- A no nonsense approach to littering, graffiti and fly-tipping
- Improving neighbourhood policing
- Cracking down on dog-fouling by promoting responsible dog ownership

## **3. BETTER TRANSPORT**

### **WE WILL:**

- Work towards a Freedom Pass scheme for Medway's students
- Maintain the 9 am start time for concessionary bus pass holders
- Maintain the popular yellow bus scheme
- Continue to invest in our roads and pavements

## 4. CHOICE IN EDUCATION

### WE WILL:

- Remain committed to Sure Start
- Protect Medway's Grammar Schools and support schools wishing to become academies
- Create a new apprenticeship scheme to support young people in Medway
- Continue to promote the four Universities in Medway and explore options for a new University Technical College

## 5. A CLEANER & GREENER ENVIRONMENT

### WE WILL CONTINUE TO:

- Maintain the weekly bin collection
- Increase recycling rates and improve the street scene
- Protect our green spaces including Capstone Valley and Rochester airport
- Fight any proposal for an airport in the Thames Estuary or at Cliffe on the Hoo Peninsula

## 6. A BRIGHTER FUTURE

### WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Free swimming for the under 11s and over 60s and we will expand sporting opportunities for all
- Continue to attract investment into the area and work with businesses to create jobs and opportunities
- Medway receiving the recognition it deserves as a modern city with strong historic roots
- Maintaining a strong calendar of annual free events and festivals