

TEIGNBRIDGE CONSERVATIVE GROUP MANIFESTO

**Teignbridge District
Council Elections,
Thurs 2nd May 2019**

Promoted by P Bullivant on behalf of Teignbridge Conservatives, both of 6 Gaze Hill, Highweek,
Newton Abbot, TQ12 1QL.



A POSITIVE PLAN TO MAKE TEIGNBRIDGE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

[Foreword, by Conservative Group Leader Jeremy Christophers](#)

In 2011 our Conservative team of councillors at Teignbridge picked up the pieces from a Lib Dem/Independent administration that hiked up Council Tax, sold off the council's housing stock, buried plastic waste in landfill and didn't build enough affordable homes. Too many important decisions (e.g. whether or not to invest in new recycling lorries) were either dodged or kicked into the long grass and their two failed attempts to deliver a Local Plan for Teignbridge (a framework for future development) meant that developers had an easier time building where they wanted, not where communities wanted. If a planning application was rejected, the developer would often win on appeal citing the lack of a Local Plan and costing the council time and money in the process.

Since residents elected the Conservatives to run the council in 2011, Teignbridge has changed for the better. Recycling collections have doubled from once a fortnight to once a week, domestic waste is no longer going to landfill sites (it is converted to energy at environmentally-friendly Waste-to-Energy plants instead) and our new recycling lorries are collecting a wider range of recyclables including plastic and foil.

By successfully delivering a Local Plan in 2014, Teignbridge now has a framework that developers are required to work within and crucially they have to make payments towards improving local infrastructure and/or deliver a proportion of affordable homes where local families have priority. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has included contributions to play parks, schools, roads and a new country park.

We have lobbied for greater infrastructure from Central Government and over £165million has been spent in Teignbridge since 2011, such as the long-awaited South Devon Highway and upgrades to both Drumbridges roundabouts and the A38 at the Splatford Split.

By supporting local businesses and putting economic regeneration at the heart of every decision the council makes, we have helped halve unemployment in Teignbridge and through the purchase of the Market Walk shopping centre in Newton Abbot we have better protected the council's long-term finances (the strong annual return of around £1million is money that can be invested in public services every year and the centre is also an asset that will appreciate over time).

These achievements, and many more, which are detailed in this document, have been in the face of substantial reductions in central government funding (every year the previous administration used to receive a £10 million grant but now the council receives nothing). That is roughly £200 less per household per year. Other parties would have balanced the books by either hiking up Council Tax, slashing services or putting the council into debt. None of these things have happened under the Conservatives. Band D properties pay only 35p a week more in Council Tax than they did 8 years ago, frontline services have been maintained (and in many cases improved) and we have not increased borrowing.

This is why this election really matters. If another Conservative administration is elected we will continue listen, gather evidence and make the right decisions to improve services and keep Council Tax increases to an absolute minimum. Unlike our political opponents, we will not just describe a list of complaints or make rash 'un-costed' promises, that will either never happen or rack up debts for our children and grandchildren to pay off.

The effectiveness of our administration at Teignbridge and the lack of an alternative at Teignbridge was clear earlier this year when the official opposition put forward no alternative proposals to our budget – the first time this has happened for decades.

You can only trust the Teignbridge Conservatives to improve local services and keep council spending under control.

1: DELIVERING VALUE FOR MONEY AND KEEPING COUNCIL TAX DOWN

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE:

- 1. Reduced the cost of Teignbridge's senior management by a third.**
- 2. Frozen council tax 4 times in the past 8 years.**
- 3. Shared services with other councils (e.g. IT support) to reduce overheads.**
- 4. Reduced waste and inefficiencies.**
- 5. Invested in revenue-generating projects e.g. purchasing Market Walk in Newton Abbot which will generate regular income for the council to invest in public services.**

WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE FUTURE:

- 1. Reduce costs with on-line transactions and use Post Offices for face-to-face payments.**
- 2. Maintain control of council spending and ensure every decision is 'costed' and delivers value for money.**
- 3. Keep council tax as low as possible and only increase it if vital frontline services would otherwise be affected.**

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2: HELPING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE:

- 1. Provided 100% rate relief for low-income families (Teignbridge is one of the only councils in the South West that offers this).**
- 2. Invested in 10 new secure units in Newton Abbot to provide temporary accommodation for vulnerable families, including domestic violence victims.**
- 3. Helped deliver record numbers of affordable homes with local families having priority (we have delivered 2.5 times as many on average per year as the previous administration).**
- 4. Reduced the number of families waiting for housing from over 4,000 to less than 1,000.**

WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE FUTURE:

- 5. Through our Housing Diversification Plan deliver more affordable and accessible homes.**
- 6. Bring forward new Custom and Self-Build housing opportunities.**
- 7. Expand our secure places of safety provision.**
- 8. Reduce social housing waiting lists even further.**

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3: IMPROVING RECYCLING AND ENDING DOMESTIC WASTE GOING TO LANDFILL

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE:

- 1. Stopped Teignbridge's domestic waste from being buried in landfill (as it was under the last administration). Domestic waste is now converted to energy at environmentally-friendly 'Waste-to-Energy' plants.**
- 2. Invested in new recycling lorries that can collect a wider range of recyclables, including plastic and tin foil.**
- 3. Doubled recycling collections to weekly.**
- 4. Increased fines for littering and fly-tipping.**

WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE FUTURE:

- 5. Maintain weekly recycling collections.**
- 6. Increase recycling rates even further by supporting residents to separate more items.**
- 7. Continue to crack down on dog fouling, littering and fly-tipping.**

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4: CREATING JOBS, BOOSTING SKILLS AND HELPING BUSINESSES

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE:

- 1. Made job creation and economic regeneration our number one priority (unemployment has HALVED under our administration).**
- 2. Helped deliver the South Devon University Technical College, giving future generations the skills they need to embark on successful careers.**
- 3. Invested in sites and facilities to retain key businesses within Teignbridge.**
- 4. Brought the Tour of Britain and Radio 1's Big Weekend to Teignbridge, worth an estimated £9million to our local economy.**
- 5. Introduced free parking on Sundays.**

WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE FUTURE:

- 6. Keep car parking charges as some of the lowest in Devon to encourage residents to shop locally.**
- 7. Invest in more sites to support business growth.**
- 8. Promote skills and training for higher-wage jobs.**
- 9. Bring WIFI and apps into use which promote our High Streets.**

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5: SECURING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND BOOSTING OUR CYCLE NETWORK

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE:

- 1. Produced a framework for residential and business development that guarantees developers make infrastructure contributions when new homes are built. (CIL)**
- 2. Helped secure more than £165million of infrastructure investment including the new South Devon Link Road, improvements at Splatford Split near Kennford.**
- 3. Helped attract £55M government investment to SW Exeter**
- 4. Delivered £20M of additional investment across Greater Exeter**
- 5. Worked with Devon County Council to deliver 40km of new cycle paths in Teignbridge.**

WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE FUTURE

- 6. Work with Central Government and our Local Enterprise Partnership to bring more infrastructure investment to the district.**
- 7. Continue to be an active partner in the Greater Exeter partnership, working with neighbouring authorities to bring economic benefits to Teignbridge.**
- 8. Deliver a new road from Drumbridges to Newton Abbot and link roads around Newton Abbot and Dawlish.**
- 9. Deliver more safe pathways for cyclists, walkers and equestrians across the district.**

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6: HELPING FAMILIES LEAD ACTIVE LIVES

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE:

- 1. Helped improve Teignbridge's beaches so they are now all rated 'excellent' or 'good' for water quality.**
- 2. Helped fund new BMX and skate parks.**
- 3. Delivered a new nature reserve in Dawlish (paid for by developers, not the tax payer).**
- 4. Helped fund projects at local sports clubs.**
- 5. Delivered an annual awards evening to recognise the community volunteers who sporting excellence and for the good of Sports and Community**

WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE FUTURE:

- 6. Deliver a major investment programme to improve our current play parks and ensure new housing developments include new play parks.**
- 7. Refurbish our leisure centres in Dawlish and Teignmouth.**
- 8. Deliver new Sports Centres in Exminster and Newton Abbot.**

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