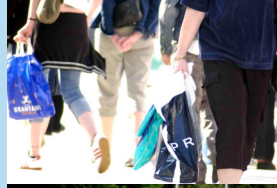


MANIFESTO

The Welsh Conservative Manifesto for the
Local Elections on 3 May 2012



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FOREWORD FROM THE WELSH CONSERVATIVES

Dear Resident,

We all want the best for our families and for our communities. But after 13 years of Labour rule in the Assembly, Wales is falling further behind.



Standards in education and healthcare are getting worse, and Labour refuses to cooperate properly with the Conservative-led UK Government to turn our economy around.

While Labour's vision for Wales is timid and uninspiring, Welsh Conservatives believe we can do so much better. To do so we'll have to change the way government works in Wales.

We'll make sure government works for you. We'll make sure the promise of devolution delivers – putting power in the hands of people and communities.

At the local elections Welsh Conservatives have a clear vision of how to achieve this.

- We'll freeze council tax, keeping bills low and money in your pockets.
- We'll reform the planning system so local residents decide how their communities take shape.
- We'll make councils more transparent, so people can see how their money is spent.
- We'll scrap business rates for small firms so businesses can invest their profits in creating more jobs.
- We'll reform the way schools are funded, to put teachers in control.
- And we'll put doctors and nurses in control of local hospitals and frontline care.

After 13 years of Labour telling you what to do, it's time for you to have your say.

On 3 May, you decide. A vote for the Welsh Conservatives will ensure you have a greater say over the decisions affecting your lives. Because it is only by giving business leaders, teachers, doctors and local residents the power to make local decisions that we can improve the way that these decisions are made.

Don't let Labour do to your local community what they did to Britain.

On 3 May, vote Welsh Conservative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Gillan', with a horizontal line underneath.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew RT Davies', with a horizontal line underneath.

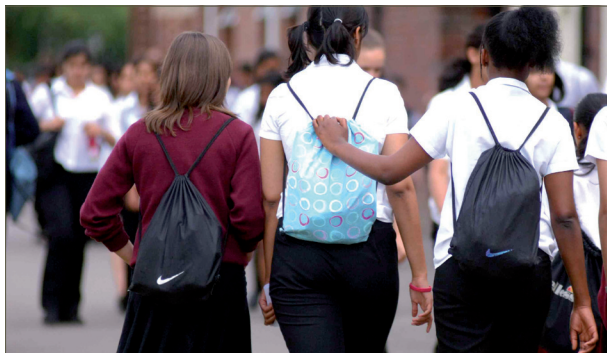
RT. HON CHERYL GILLAN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES

ANDREW RT DAVIES AM
LEADER, OFFICIAL OPPOSITION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



FREEZING COUNCIL TAX

Council tax has more than doubled under Labour since 1997. In England, Councils have had the opportunity to freeze council tax for two successive years. In Scotland, it is five years! But in Wales Labour refuses to do the same, driving up bills for households across the country. Welsh Conservatives would freeze council tax across Wales; relieving the burden on hard-pressed households and families.



MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

Under Labour, £604 less is spent per pupil each year in Wales than in England, exam results are lower - and the gap is widening! We believe headteachers, teachers, governors and parents know best – not bureaucrats! That’s why Welsh Conservatives will fund schools directly, cutting administration and bureaucracy, and ensuring much-needed resources reach the frontline.



ABOLISHING BUSINESS RATES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

We are committed to abolishing business rates for small businesses. This will allow firms to expand and hire new staff, stimulating local economies. To further boost the economy, Welsh Conservatives are committed to the introduction of enterprise zones in Wales, to offering tailored support for the unemployed and to freezing Severn Bridge tolls.



PROTECTING YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL

Welsh Conservatives believe in local health services for local people. Patients should not have to travel further for life-saving care. We oppose plans to downgrade hospitals and reject any proposals to cut A&E departments and maternity services. We are the only Party in Wales to have called for the health budget to receive extra investment. Labour is cutting the Welsh NHS by a crippling £534million. Under their watch, one in eight people in Wales are on an NHS waiting list.



SAFER STREETS, CLEANER COMMUNITIES

We will promote a tough approach to environmental crime, and are determined to stamp out littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling in our local communities. Welsh Conservatives will prioritise repairing roads and pavements; cutting the rising cost of injury claims against Welsh local authorities.



PLANNING POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Inappropriate development on flood plains and in our countryside must be halted. ‘Garden grabbing’ is becoming a common problem, whilst the hands of local planning committees are too often tied by cumbersome Welsh Labour Government guidance. Welsh Conservatives believe that local people should have the power to shape planning policy and development; so we will ensure the system is responsive and flexible to local needs.



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Your local council is there for YOU – and must be open, transparent and fully accountable. Welsh Conservatives want local authorities to publish details of all spending over £500. We will slash ‘fat cat’ salaries of certain senior management and chief executives – instead investing money into essential, frontline services.

