



**Our plan to deliver  
stronger, safer  
communities**

**WELSH CONSERVATIVE PARTY**  
Local Government Manifesto 2022



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# OUR PLAN TO DELIVER STRONGER, SAFER COMMUNITIES





**EMPOWER LOCAL PEOPLE** – the people who know what is best for their local area are the people who live in them, giving them the power to decide how their community grows.



**PRIDE IN PLACE** – tackling the issues that blight our communities, so that everyone can be proud of where they live.



**ENABLE LOCAL JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE** – supporting our high streets to diversify to meet the challenges of the future and attract investment across our communities to boost business and creating jobs.



**HEALTHIER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES** – ensuring the NHS and social services work together to deliver social care for those who need it. Working with Police and enforcement bodies to keep our streets and communities safe.



**SECURE COMMUNITIES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION** – giving our young people the opportunities they deserve for their future, whilst delivering net zero emissions by promoting sustainable, greener communities, with enhanced public transport.



**DELIVER FAIR FUNDING** – councils in rural areas and North Wales have been held back by years of underinvestment from the Labour Welsh Government, forcing hikes in Council Tax.

# DELIVERING STRONGER, SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Covid-19 pandemic has stretched our councils to their limits, but the unwavering dedication of staff and councillors across Wales has enabled essential services to care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Welsh Conservatives throughout Wales have been standing up for their local communities and delivering services against a backdrop of historic underfunding from the Labour Welsh Government, particularly for rural councils and those in North Wales, where it costs more to deliver the same services than elsewhere.

However, the pandemic has shown that with all levels of government working together, local communities benefit. The Welsh Conservatives are committed to continuing those partnerships so that together we can:

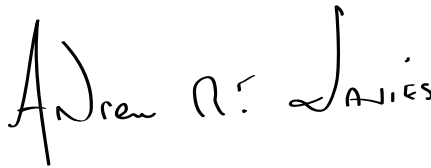
- ▶ Empower local people to take control of the future of their communities by developing local plans to enable collaborative growth, whilst protecting local services.
- ▶ Create pride in the places that we live and tackling the issues that blight our communities, particularly fly-tipping and dog mess.
- ▶ Enable businesses to thrive, creating local jobs for local people, whilst fighting against Labour and Plaid's tourism tax that will detract from the recovery of the vital tourism industry.
- ▶ Create healthier communities with wrap-around care for those in need and ensuring our streets are safe for everyone.
- ▶ Provide opportunities for our young people's future where Labour have let them down, whilst supporting everyone to recycle and reach our international net zero obligations.
- ▶ End the underfunding of our local councils and go further to end the cycle of council tax rises.

**By voting for your local Welsh Conservatives on 5th May, you can deliver the change that our communities need to become stronger for everyone.**



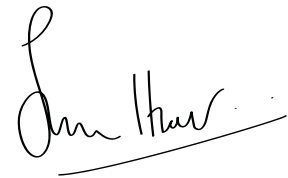
**CLLR CHERYL CARLISLE**

Chair, Welsh Conservative Councillors Association



**ANDREW RT DAVIES MS**

Welsh Conservative Leader



**SIMON HART MP**

Secretary of State for Wales



# EMPOWERING LOCAL PEOPLE





**Welsh Conservatives are clear that the best people to decide what is needed for their communities, are the people that live in them.**

However, after two decades of devolution many people are concerned that more and more power is being trapped in Cardiff Bay or undemocratic regional bodies, and not being passed to local councils to deliver for local people.

**LOCAL WELSH CONSERVATIVES WOULD:**

- ▶ Enable local communities to create Local Neighbourhood Plans, so that local people can take the lead on where new housing and services should be built.
- ▶ Support communities to protect local services through a Community Ownership Fund, helping to buy community facilities such as the local pub, shop or library, saving vital assets from unwanted development.

**WELSH CONSERVATIVES IN THE SENEDD ARE CHAMPIONING:**

- ▶ Working with communities to deliver 120,000 new homes over the next ten years.
- ▶ Ensuring that local councils and communities have the powers and funding needed to deliver for local people.
- ▶ Supporting local people to buy their home in high areas of second home ownership and end the historic trend of Wales having more empty properties than second homes.

**UK GOVERNMENT ACTION:**

- ▶ Supporting Welsh communities with nearly £500,000 to save local facilities such as Ty'n Llan in Gwynedd, refurbishing and redeveloping the Queen's Ballroom in Blaenau Gwent and the CANA Resource Training Centre in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- ▶ Investing £121 million in ten projects across Wales from the new Levelling-up Fund including, £17 million for Haverfordwest castle, £15 million for the Montgomery Canal and £13 million to boost tourism around Pontcysyllte Aqueduct World Heritage site near Wrexham.

# PRIDE IN PLACE

**The last two years has seen a renewed sense of community and pride in our local areas, with more people using local parks and appreciating what many had taken for granted.**

Welsh Conservatives will work with communities and other organisations to enable local people to restore pride in where they live, attracting more investment and boosting tourism.

## **LOCAL WELSH CONSERVATIVES WOULD:**

- ▶ Work with the Police and others to tackle blights on our communities such as anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, graffiti, and dog mess.
- ▶ Ensure investment in our roads and pavements to minimise potholes and hazardous pedestrian areas.

## **WELSH CONSERVATIVES IN THE SENEDD ARE CHAMPIONING:**

- ▶ Creating a £250 million Rural Roads Fund to end the merry-go-round of pothole repairs and improve safety.
- ▶ Protecting playing fields from unnecessary development and promoting the creation of 3G and 4G pitches, along with encouraging asset transfers to community projects.
- ▶ Introducing a £100 million Pavement Repair Fund, to make our high streets more accessible, encourage active travel and prevents dangerous trips and falls.



## **UK GOVERNMENT ACTION:**

- ▶ Alongside other local growth funds, the Shared Prosperity Fund will champion pride in place and will deliver over half a billion pounds into Welsh communities as EU funding tails off, leaving Wales as the biggest beneficiary of post-EU UK Government funding.

# ENABLE LOCAL JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

**Welsh Conservatives know that local businesses are the lifeblood of our communities, providing jobs for local people, as well as supporting local organisations and charities.**

For too long our local businesses and high streets have been left to slowly decline under the pressure of the highest business rates in Britain.

Welsh Conservatives want to support businesses to flourish and grow to create jobs for local people, and also ensure our vital tourism sector bounces back from the pandemic.

## **LOCAL WELSH CONSERVATIVES WOULD:**

- ▶ Explore opportunities to have free parking at weekends to enable those who can't use public transport to use local high streets.
- ▶ Support businesses and communities to make local areas attractive for investment, and create jobs for local people.

## **WELSH CONSERVATIVES IN THE SENEDD ARE CHAMPIONING:**

- ▶ Scrapping Labour and Plaid's Tourism Tax that will harm our vital tourism sector as it recovers from the pandemic.
- ▶ Localising procurement of food and products for schools, councils and other public services to strengthen the link between local producers and consumers.
- ▶ Abolishing business rates for small businesses and reforming this outdated tax on growth.



### **UK GOVERNMENT ACTION:**

- ▶ Investing £800 million across Wales through Growth Deals, creating jobs and opportunities for local people.
- ▶ Delivering more than £46 million for over 160 projects across Wales to help people into work, boost productivity and work towards becoming net zero. This includes £629,000 to support manufacturers in Denbighshire to implement digital manufacturing strategies and £2.7 million for six projects across Powys.



# HEALTHIER & SAFER COMMUNITIES



**By supporting communities to be more active, councils can enable people to be healthier.**

The Welsh Conservatives are committed to ensuring that the NHS is available for all, free at the point of use. Through working together, councils, social services and the NHS can provide wrap around care that supports people's mental and physical wellbeing, enabling people to maintain their independence.

People must also feel safe in their communities and Welsh Conservatives will work with the Police and enforcement bodies to keep our streets and communities safe.

## **LOCAL WELSH CONSERVATIVES WOULD:**

- ▶ Ensure closer working with social services and the NHS to protect the most vulnerable in society, giving them dignity and respect.
- ▶ Empower communities to keep leisure facilities open to encourage better physical and mental health.



### **WELSH CONSERVATIVES IN THE SENEDD ARE CHAMPIONING:**

- ▶ Enshrining into law an NHS Covenant to protect the NHS for future generations, including social care, with guaranteed increased spending on the NHS and primary care each and every year.
- ▶ Increasing funding each and every year for Police Community Support Officers and expand spending on the Safer Streets fund to increase CCTV and improve street lighting across Wales.
- ▶ Increasing the role of Occupational Therapists to provide wrap around care to maintain a person's independence, as well as introducing a Welsh Minimum Care Wage of £10 per hour.

### **UK GOVERNMENT ACTION:**

- ▶ Delivered an additional 479 Police Officers onto Welsh streets.
- ▶ Investing £700 million directly into health and social care in Wales, on top of providing the Welsh Government with an extra £1.9 billion for the Welsh NHS.

# SECURE COMMUNITIES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION





## **The future of our communities is at stake. For too long underfunding by the Labour Welsh Government has caused our young people to miss out.**

Compared to students in England, Welsh students should receive £1,000 more spent on their education but are currently missing out on £100 a year. And despite declaring a climate emergency two years ago, Labour have dithered and delayed in taking action.

Welsh Conservatives want our local communities to be fit for the future, ending the decline in public transport, and deliver where Labour has let our young people down.

### **LOCAL WELSH CONSERVATIVES WOULD:**

- ▶ Protect the environment by increasing recycling and delivering services to enable communities to maximise what they can recycle.
- ▶ Ensure that every young person should have the opportunity to reach their potential in schools which are fit for purpose in delivering the national curriculum.

### **WELSH CONSERVATIVES IN THE SENEDD ARE CHAMPIONING:**

- ▶ Ending the underfunding of our young people, so that schools can deliver the national curriculum with more funding reaching classrooms directly.
- ▶ Expand small scale and hydro projects for renewable energy and bring in a Clean Air Act for Wales to tackle air pollution.
- ▶ Creating a National Flood Agency for Wales to investigate flooding incidences, working with local councils to prevent flooding in the future.

### **UK GOVERNMENT ACTION:**

- ▶ Conservatives are delivering the largest annual funding settlement to Wales since devolution, securing funding for local authorities.
- ▶ Rishi Sunak has created a £2 billion Kickstart Scheme to create jobs for 16 to 24 year olds at risk of long term unemployment across the UK.

# DELIVER FAIR FUNDING



**Over the last twenty years, the cost of living has increased with Council Tax in Wales going up by nearly 200%, adding £900 to the average household bill, whilst pay packets have only gone up by 78% - behind Scotland and Northern Ireland.**

Small businesses in Wales are also hampered with the highest level of local business tax, paying more than other parts of Britain. Welsh Conservatives have long campaigned for action for fairer funding across Wales to stop the Welsh Government from underfunding communities in our rural areas and North Wales.

## **LOCAL WELSH CONSERVATIVES WOULD:**

- ▶ Deliver the services that local communities rely on, whilst ensuring value for money for taxpayers.
- ▶ Work together with neighbouring councils and others to reduce costs and improve services.

## **WELSH CONSERVATIVES IN THE SENEDD ARE CHAMPIONING:**

- ▶ Ensuring fair funding for all councils in Wales to deliver the services that people rely on, recognising the additional costs of providing support in rural areas.
- ▶ Providing councils with enhanced funding to enable them to freeze Council Tax, taking a stand against the constant increase in Council Tax whilst protecting services.

## **UK GOVERNMENT ACTION:**

- ▶ Provided the Labour Welsh Government with a nearly additional £9 billion during the pandemic to tackle Covid-19.
- ▶ Record Conservative investment leading to Welsh Public Services receiving £3 billion more per year than before 2010