

Labour: Your voice in tough times

Labour stabilised the economy after the world-wide crash caused by the banks and left office with the economy growing again and unemployment falling. We need to make sensible cuts to reduce the deficit. But the reckless programme designed in Downing Street - and now coming to your street - goes **too far, too fast**. Ireland made large cuts and slid back into recession, requiring a huge EU bail-out.

North Herts needs local councillors who will stand up against the Tory-led government's plans to cut vital services. These are not only unfair but they are wrong long term choices for the future of our country.

Labour will be our community's first line of defence against the damage being caused by a Conservative-led government and their Liberal Democrat allies who have **broken promises** on VAT, tuition fees and protecting frontline services.

The Tory-led government should abandon plans to slash **police numbers** - Hertfordshire is expected to lose 225 police officers over the next 4 years - and waste another £100 million on introducing elected police commissioners.

Labour's investment in the nation's **health** delivered massive improvements but these are threatened by the plan for GP's to commission services from the lowest bidder. This will undermine quality, be highly disruptive and deliver profits to private companies which cherry-pick the easy work.

Labour believes we need action to grow the local economy so there are more **jobs**. This will help tackle the deficit and make sure young people aren't forced on to benefits. The Tory-led government's plans will cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and raise the benefits bill.

In these tough times, we need **Labour** councillors who will stand up for vital **local services** and help young people get a fair chance in life.

With so many people seeking **homes**, it is unbelievable that the Tory-led government has scrapped **Labour's** housing targets and has cut £4billion from the funds available to housing associations to build homes for rent this year.

Here in North Herts, the Tory Council will cut 7 per cent each year for the next 4 years from its support for **charities and voluntary groups**.

Labour opposed these cuts and proposed that none be made in the first year to give the Council time to make a proper assessment of the impact they will have on the services provided to our community by these groups. The Tories rejected our proposal.

"If this is robust action on bank bonuses, my name's Bob Diamond"

- Lord Oakeshott, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman.

Barclays boss Bob Diamond received a reported £6.5million bonus

Barclays: £11.6bn profit, 1% tax

March Budget forecast revisions: Unemployment up Economic Growth down

"It's hurting but it isn't working"

- Ed Miliband

Cuts put best hospitals and thousands of jobs at risk, say health trusts

"I'll cut the deficit, not the NHS"

- David Cameron before the General Election

NHS shakeup risks return to 1930s - doctors

"There is evidence that competition based on price harms, rather than enhances, quality"

Royal College of Physicians

Hertfordshire Police to axe 100 jobs after funds drop

- BBC web site 24 February

The cuts will leave 500,000 of the most frail and vulnerable older people without vital home-based care

- Age UK

Housing ladder

The average age of a first-time buyer who has not benefited from financial help is 37

The Big Society? "More sound-bite than programme for government"

- Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations

"a significant part of this government does not believe in housing need"

- Centre for Housing and Planning Research, Cambridge University

Council agrees budget of 'savage cuts'

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Cllr David Keane, Labour Finance Spokesperson North Herts District Council