

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Conservatives



OPPORTUNITIES • JOB CREATION • ECONOMIC GROWTH • SUSTAINABILITY • WORKING FOR YOU

Manifesto 2021

**BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS
IN
NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE**

Making North East Lincolnshire better for you...

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Conservatives



OPPORTUNITIES • JOB CREATION • ECONOMIC GROWTH • SUSTAINABILITY • WORKING FOR YOU

AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Two years ago, you, the voters of Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Immingham, elected the first majority Conservative administration in the history of North East Lincolnshire Council. Thank you for entrusting us with running your local authority. We were elected on a manifesto and we have already delivered many of its pledges. We continue to focus on those that remain; several of them are long-term.

We have adopted a common sense, value for money approach to running the Council. We have listened to what you have been telling us you want, whether it be via email, telephone conversations, talking on the doorstep or meeting you at the regular ward surgeries many of our Conservative councillors hold. For the first time, we organised "Meet the Cabinet" sessions for individual members of the public to discuss issues and ideas face-to-face with members of the Cabinet. These events were widely appreciated and, once Covid-19 restrictions allow, we will re-establish them on a regular basis.

We are all acutely aware of the devastation the Covid-19 pandemic has caused over the past year, both to people and the economy, nationally and locally. North East Lincolnshire Council has had to work very differently during this difficult time, supporting vulnerable people, our communities and our businesses. We have only been able to do this by working closely with other public sector partners, the voluntary and community sector, businesses and industry, as well as central government. We will maintain these strengthened working relationships to build a stronger economy and stronger communities as we emerge from the pandemic.

Despite the constraints imposed by Covid-19, we have still progressed many of our manifesto pledges around improving services and have made major strides forward with much-needed economic development and regeneration across the Borough. This comes after many years of stagnation under the previous Labour administration. We now have a Conservative Council, two Conservative Members of Parliament and a Conservative Government committed to "levelling-up" northern towns and coastal communities like Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Immingham. We are working closely together, in a way that has never before been possible, to bring about the improvements we all want for our people and communities.

As Conservatives, we believe in encouraging people and communities to make their own decisions and be self-reliant, rather than the Council (or Government)

telling you how to run your lives. We want to see everyone progress and prosper, and we will always do what we can to help those who help themselves.

This manifesto summarises our achievements over the past two years and, more importantly, explains how we will build on firm foundations to continue improving North East Lincolnshire. Based on this manifesto, we hope you will continue to support us in the local elections on 6 May.



Philip Jackson

Philip Jackson

Councillor Philip Jackson, Leader of North East Lincolnshire Council

BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATIONS IN NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE



OUR PLEDGES TO YOU

■ AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR BUSINESS IN NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

As the renewable energy sector continues to expand, with even more wind turbines planned for the North Sea, Grimsby is ideally positioned to take advantage of new jobs in that sector as well as the myriad of supporting businesses. Our well-established seafood processing sector is also going from strength to strength, with many innovations planned. **As a Council, we will do all we can to facilitate growth throughout these sectors.**

The small and medium enterprise businesses (SMEs) are a major contributor to jobs and prosperity in our area. We intend to focus and streamline the advice and help available to this sector to maximise future growth.

In the Budget, the Chancellor announced that the Humber had been successful in bidding to become one of the first Freeports in the country and a detailed business case is currently being assembled. The bid was private sector led, but a perfect example of how local authorities around the Humber are working in collaboration with private sector partners to attract business and investment. Freeport status has the potential to bring further major investment and jobs to the Ports of Grimsby and Immingham.

As a Council, we are a key player in the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), ensuring we gain maximum investment into North East Lincolnshire via that organisation. We are also collaborating more closely with North Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire County Council to enable some services to be delivered more efficiently, together. All this will strengthen our hand in pursuing a Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal in the future, potentially bringing more autonomy and resources to the area.

■ MAJOR INVESTMENT IN GRIMSBY TOWN CENTRE

Grimsby town centre has been neglected for many years and we know the problems high street and shopping centres are experiencing. This year alone, we have successfully bid for £38 million of Government grant funding to invest in projects here. This includes £17 million to repurpose the western end of Freshney Place to incorporate a multiscreen cinema, a new market hall, and food and beverage establishments. This will increase footfall and attract a different clientele. We have £21 million for seven other planned projects around the town centre. This should lever in additional private sector investment, too.

All this is in addition to the current grant-funded public realm improvements in St. James' Square, Riverhead Square and Garth Lane, including the new bridge over the River Freshney. We are also investing £1 million in a new CCTV system to improve public safety in the town centre.

Work has begun to bring back into use the long-derelict West Havens Maltings as an OnSide Youth Zone facility. Under this Conservative administration, at last we are seeing real improvements to the centre of Grimsby. We will maintain the pressure to deliver all these projects as quickly as possible. **We also want to re-instate a proper bus station in place of the current arrangement where bus stands are dispersed around the streets.** We believe Grimsby town centre would be a good location for a new ice rink. This would be more accessible than the current rink on Cromwell Road, which is reaching the end of its life. We will, of course, work with the community group who run the current ice rink as we develop our ideas and plans for an exciting new facility.

■ BRINGING MORE VISITORS AND JOBS TO CLEETHORPES

We are currently undertaking regeneration work in Sea Road. We have all seen the exciting private sector plans for the re-use of the former Pleasure Island site. Our focus will now turn to the northern end of the resort which needs transformational investment.

We will work to ensure Cleethorpes is as attractive as possible for local people and visitors, and can take full advantage of the expected increased "staycation" market as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes providing decent public toilets which are, once again, free to use thanks to this Conservative administration. **We will invest in new and improved information signs and a new, comprehensive marketing strategy so visitors are clear about everything Cleethorpes has to offer.**

■ WE ARE ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW-ABIDING MAJORITY

We have started to tackle the "anything goes" culture that had been allowed to develop over many years of Labour administration. **We have stepped up enforcement against littering, dog fouling, anti-social behaviour, begging, parking on grass verges and footpaths, irresponsible parking around schools, and cycling in Victoria Street.** We recognise that this is a long-term project but we are determined to stick with it. We are grateful for the support of the police and the courts.

■ IMPROVING OUR STREETS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

North East Lincolnshire is cleaner and tidier than two years ago thanks to the focus we have placed on important frontline services like litter bins, clearing fly-tipping, and cutting grass verges and open spaces. Thanks to Operation Gateway, the key entrances to Grimsby and Cleethorpes along the A180 are being improved, giving the area a better image.

However, further improvement is still needed in all these areas and this will remain one of our key priorities. **In our budget in February, we announced further investment in our parks, open spaces and play areas.**



OUR PLEDGES TO YOU

■ MORE EFFICIENT WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Over the last year, we have rolled out a much-improved domestic waste and recycling collection service. We now have proper bins for our recycling instead of the old boxes, providing more capacity, preventing rubbish blowing around our streets, and saving money. The new arrangement is popular and recycling rates are improving after years of stagnation under Labour, though we recognise that there are still some teething problems to resolve. We are introducing weekly collections of kitchen waste in some areas, and plan to extend this.

Labour talked about improving recycling during their eight years in power; we delivered major improvements in 18 months.

■ HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Many of you will remember the controversy over Tollbar Roundabout which was such a feature of the 2019 local elections. Labour wanted to replace it with a traffic light-controlled junction. They refused to listen to overwhelming public opposition or the arguments from Conservative councillors that it was not the best way to address pedestrian safety and traffic capacity problems. Despite being told that there was no alternative to ripping out the roundabout, the new Conservative administration pledged to retain it. We have delivered on that pledge, at the same time improving pedestrian safety and increasing traffic capacity, so reducing congestion.

The new roundabout at the junction of Cambridge Road and Littlecoates Road is now operational, addressing another congestion hotspot.

The Humber Link Road has recently opened, providing a direct link between Pyewipe and Immingham. This is reducing travel times and congestion on the A180 and provides access to more industrial development land for job creation.

Major improvements to the A18 have been completed, with the next phase - a new roundabout at the junction of Waltham Road and the Barton Street - commencing later this year.

Following successful negotiations with the Government and Network Rail, we have secured the necessary funding for a new bridge over the railway line at Suggitts Lane. Construction will commence later this year.

We have successfully bid for funding for several major cycleway schemes, including a cycle superhighway between Grimsby and Immingham.

The Conservative administration will be proactive in attracting more grant funding for schemes to improve connectivity, reduce congestion and support business and industry in creating jobs.

■ EDUCATION AND SKILLS

It is essential that our young people have skills to benefit from the new jobs being created in North East Lincolnshire in renewable energy, ports and logistics and other sectors. Although we have many good schools, our exam results remain stubbornly below the national average. **We will work with schools in North East Lincolnshire to put plans in place to address this.**

A grammar school in North East Lincolnshire would improve standards, provide more choice for parents and help to attract and retain aspirational families. We are currently exploring the possibility of establishing such a school.

■ PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

These are important services for the residents of North East Lincolnshire. The Government has recently published a White Paper outlining proposed changes to the way in which health services are organised. **We are committed to working with our partners in health and adult social care to influence change and maximise the benefits for local people.**

■ MORE QUALITY HOMES IN THE RIGHT LOCATIONS.

North East Lincolnshire needs more quality homes in the right locations. We are promoting the redevelopment of derelict and empty urban sites, such as redundant school playing fields, with a focus on brownfield sites rather than rural greenfield locations. **We want to see waterfront housing, which has been so successful in many other town and cities, in Grimsby town centre.** Grimsby has turned its back on its waterfront for too long.

■ PROTECTING AND PROMOTING OUR HERITAGE

We want to protect North East Lincolnshire's historic buildings and bring many back into use. We have already spent considerable sums renovating at-risk structures, including Scartho Cemetery.

As part of Grimsby's regeneration, we want to find a location for a gallery and museum to display North East Lincolnshire's extensive collection of historic artefacts which have, for too long, been hidden in storage away from public view.

