

End of term County report

Liberal Democrat Record

Jointly ran the Council from 1993 to 2005

- Suffolk's school results in the top 30 in England when we ran the Council
- Opposed Tory closure of Middle Schools
- Proposed increase in budget to help schools improve this year, but this was turned down by the Conservatives



Education

- Introduced the eXplore Card in 2005, to ensure that young people could get to education and training at reasonable cost
- Campaigned against the Tory's axing of the eXplore card two years ago



Student Travel

- Introduced three Park and Ride services around Ipswich
- Campaigned against Tory decision to close Bury Road Park and Ride, organised a petition and surveyed passengers. Conservatives still went ahead with closure



Park & Ride

- No time restriction for bus pass holders before County Council took over administration of bus passes
- Campaigned for travel from 9am for over 60s and no time restriction for disabled pass holders



Concessionary Fares

- Introduced 30mph speed limits in all villages, and 20's Plenty outside schools
- Will work with communities who want to bring in 20mph residential limits. Proposed a budget for these this year but it was turned down by Tories



Speed Limits

- Introduced a contract management committee which was abolished by the Conservatives in 2005. As a result contract costs have spiraled out of control



Major Contracts

- Opened new libraries, refurbished libraries across Suffolk, and extended opening hours to Sundays
- Campaigned to keep libraries open when Conservatives wanted to close them



Libraries

Conservative Record

Have run the Council for the last 8 years

- Almost bottom of English league table for GCSE results and primary schools
- £124m spent on axing successful Middle Schools
- Cut school improvement budget from £11m to £6m

- Abolished the Explore student travel card two years ago, causing financial hardship to students.
- Been forced to reconsider a student travel card, but no firm timescales have been announced for its re-introduction

- Closed the Bury Road site in the teeth of public opposition
- Increased fares for over 60's and families
- Half a million drop in passenger numbers in the last three years

- Brought in time restriction for over 60's and disabled bus pass holders
- Ignored pleas to remove time restrictions by organisations representing visually and physically impaired people

- Conservative transport chief in Suffolk has decided that County does not need any more speed limits
- Community requests for new speed limits are being ignored as accidents increase

- Overspent by £110m on the contract with BT which was meant to save the Council £70m over 10 years
- Secretly gave £780,000 to a London based company to duplicate the work of Suffolk charities

- Had secret plans to close all but eight libraries
- Have now transferred all libraries to an external company and future funding is uncertain



Conservative waste exposed at County Hall

- £20m for extra offices in Ipswich - when staff numbers are reducing
- £110m overspend on contract with BT
- £10m increase in pay bill for top managers in 5 years
- £124m on abolishing Middle Schools - and Suffolk's education results are now amongst the worst in England.



Conservatives have hoarded £152m in reserves whilst cutting services.

Remember this?

Tories appointed former Chief Executive Andrea Hill on a salary of £218,000 and then gave her a massive handout to leave the council!



Lib Dems voted against her appointment.

A tale of two buildings...



Landmark House

Cost £20m in 2012 - £6m over budget

These buildings are on opposite sides of Bury Road in Ipswich.

The £20m spent on Landmark House would have paid to keep the Bury Road Park and Ride service running for nearly 40 years!



Closed in 2011

Bury Road Park and Ride terminus

Lib Dems in Government

Education: £900 per pupil for disadvantaged children

Pensions: £650 more for today's pensioners and £144 per week from 2015 - and no means test

Tax: Next year 24.5 million people will pay £700 less tax than under Labour. By 2014 those earning £10,000 or less will pay no tax at all.

Labour's legacy of debt and waste..

ID cards: £5bn

Iraq war: £9bn

Failed NHS IT

System: £12bn

The worst debt in Europe - except Greece.. and Labour kept spending!

"We were in a pit of debt and we just kept digging"

Labour's Lord Mandelson