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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Introduced a contract management committee which was abolished by the Conservatives in 2005. As a result contract costs have spiraled out of control
- Opened new libraries, refurbished libraries across Suffolk, and extended opening hours to Sundays
- Campaigned to keep libraries open when Conservatives wanted to close them
- Had secret plans to close all but eight libraries
- Have now transferred all libraries to an external company and future funding is uncertain

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
- 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

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!”

Labour's Lord Mandelson

End of term County report

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.

Lib Dems voted against her appointment.

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!

A tale of two buildings...

Landmark House
Cost £20m in 2012 - £6m over budget

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

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!