

# Penny Mordaunt

## Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Portsmouth North



### PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

We all know that for the last 10 years our Council tax has rocketed whilst the services we get for it have shrunk. Council tax is beoming unaffordable for many, and we believe we need to freeze council tax for the next two years and offer further discounts to particular sections of the community.

This requires our council to work smarter. To find savings where it can and to put its financial management on a level; footing. Our conservative councillors have made suggestions as to how this could be done- such as advertising revenue, better use of office space etc, and our party has committed to matching any savings found locally. I would also like to see greater involvement for our captains of industry giving advice to the council and would like to see a forum that does that created to support councillors.

A major grievance for many people living in our city is the discrepancy between private sector and local government pensions. I used to be a council officer myself and I know that often council staff take lower salaries to do jobs that they love and get a good pension. However when you have pensioners in our city easting into their savings top prop up such schemes reform is definitely needed for the future.

Another concern affecting that age group in particular is the cuts to social service budgets we have seen in recent years. Unlike services for children there is no protection for services to older people, and I believe they need to be made a priority.

Finally we have got to stop Government of any colour making decisions about how to spend local tax. If Governments want to roll out initiatives- and get the credit for them- then they must have the funds to pay for them.

### Local Government

We are the largest party of local government in Britain , with almost 10,000 councillors across Britain .

Conservative councils are greener, helping to improve the local environment and protect green spaces in our towns and villages. They are safer, fighting the crime, anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti that ruin people's quality of life. And, at a time when people are being hit by the economic downturn, they offer better value for money.

We believe strongly in local democracy. Too many decisions which affect local communities are currently taken by officials in Whitehall . A Conservative Government will change that by:

- **Giving more powers and freedoms to local councils, and making town halls more accountable to local people**
- **Abolishing Labour's quango state, for example by scrapping the unelected regional assemblies**
- **Giving councils greater control over the spending of money that they receive from Whitehall**
- **Allowing local residents to veto high council tax rises in order to keep council tax down**
- **Our aim is to empower and embolden people to take action themselves, whether as individuals or as members of independent organisations, voluntary groups and social enterprises.**