

Penny Mordaunt

Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Portsmouth North



Our Environment: Transport, Climate Change & Energy

People in our city care a great deal about the quality of the environment, on their doorstep and further field. In addition to our Party's policy - outlined below - Portsmouth Conservatives believe we can do other things to greatly improve the environment and consequentially quality of life for everyone who lives and works here. Here are some of the specifics that concern me most:

Firstly there are practical things we can do to keep the area clean. Our action teams have recruited local volunteers who pick up litter and remove graffiti. We will continue to rollout projects which benefit the environment. Secondly we need to do more to address the serious and growing problem of congestion and of lack of parking. This can be tackled in a number of ways.

We want to see-

- Better consultation and more joined up thinking when consulting on residents parking schemes. Just moving the problem on to a neighbouring ward is no solution.
- I'd like to see more effort from the council to introduce a green transport scheme that would enable some people to give up their cars, thus easing parking, but not have to be reliant on bus services. For example electric car hire service would be one way forward.
- Some of our councilors have suggested a number of ways that commercial vehicles could be given alternative parking instead of using residential roads. This could include dedicated van parks and enforcing rules and contracts which require certain vehicles to be parked at the operator's base.

Thirdly we need to improve bus services locally, or bring in alternatives. Services have contracted so much that for many traveling by bus is no longer an option.

Fourthly, we need to ensure that those community and volunteer groups that do so much for the environment are supported. The Friends of Portsdown Hill, the Baffins Pond association and the friends of Great Salterns are prime examples of this.

Finally we should learn from other councils who have reduced fuel bills for local residents by maximising the return on investment in their local incinerator.

What a Conservative Government would do.....

Transport

A Conservative Government will improve Britain's transport system to strengthen our economic competitiveness, provide better services for travellers and help fight climate change.

THE HIGH SPEED RAIL REVOLUTION

We will build a high-speed rail line connecting London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds with the Continent through the Channel Tunnel. This will:

- Create jobs across the country with a major boost for the economies of the West Midlands and the north
- Provide a greener alternative for thousands of car and lorry journeys clogging up some of the busiest motorways in the country

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NO THIRD RUNWAY AT HEATHROW

A Conservative Government will cancel all moves to a third runway at Heathrow. Labour's reckless plans for a new runway would inflict major damage on the environment and the quality of life of millions of people.

Our goal will be to make Heathrow airport better not bigger. That means breaking up BAA's monopoly over so much air capacity in the south east, allowing passengers to vote with their feet if they receive poor service and choose an airport run by a different operator. We will also provide a high speed rail alternative to thousands of short haul flights at Heathrow, freeing up landing slots at the airport and helping to deal with overcrowding problems.

IMPROVING BRITAIN 'S RAILWAYS

To tackle overcrowding, improve services and ensure the rail industry puts passengers first, we will reform Network Rail to make it accountable to passengers and transform the Rail Regulator into a powerful passenger champion with authority to block the bonuses of Network Rail senior executives.

CUTTING CONGESTION

We will focus on tackling the worst bottlenecks on Britain 's roads. In some cases this will mean making better use of the capacity we have; in others, it will mean building new roads. Providing an improved public transport system will also be an important element of our strategy to tackle congestion.

We will put in place measures to deliver a national recharging network to boost greener driving choices and the switch to electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

And we will ensure that overseas trucks who use our roads contribute towards the cost of their maintenance, tackling a long-standing competitive disadvantage for domestic haulage companies.

MAKING LOCAL TRANSPORT GREENER

We will scrap Labour's attempts to bully local councils into introducing local road-pricing in return for vital transport funding. We will liberate this money, turning it into a Transport Carbon Reduction Fund, allowing local councils and voluntary groups to apply for funding for the green travel initiatives that will work best for their communities, including projects to encourage cycling and improve real-time information and priority measures for bus services.

Climate Change and Energy

With our energy supplies increasingly sourced overseas, and with urgent action needed to combat climate change, it's time to rethink the way we supply and consume energy in Britain . We urgently need to move to a low carbon economy in order to strengthen our economy, help guarantee our energy security and protect our environment for future generations.

Britain is uniquely placed to be the world's first low carbon economy: we have the natural resources to generate wind and wave power, a skilled workforce trained in the energy industry, a high-tech manufacturing sector and a green financial centre in the City of London.

A Conservative Government will make developing renewable and low carbon energy sources a priority. We will:

- Transform electricity networks with 'smart grid' and 'smart meter' technology that automatically matches supply and demand, allowing a huge increase in renewable power
- Provide up to £6,500 worth of home insulation improvements, enabling households to reduce their gas and electricity bills
- Create a decentralised energy revolution by introducing a system of feed-in tariffs to encourage micro-generation of electricity
- Expand offshore wind and marine power and provide government backing for a network of large-scale Marine Energy Parks

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While ensuring Britain has adequate, safe and reliable access to conventional fuels, we will only permit coal-fired power stations to be built with clean carbon capture and storage technology, restricting carbon emissions to the level achieved by a modern gas power plant.

Nuclear power will be part of the energy mix if it is economically viable, but new nuclear power stations should not leave taxpayers with liabilities for their running, decommissioning or waste. Nuclear is not an alternative to developing and expanding renewable forms of energy.

REDUCING FUEL BILLS

The rising cost of energy is pushing more and more families into fuel poverty. So we will help cut people's fuel bills by:

- Making it illegal for energy companies to charge unfair price premiums on prepayment meters, reducing bills for 5.8 million households
- Requiring every energy company to offer social tariffs (special low rates for electricity and gas) to vulnerable households
- Demanding energy companies inform customers if they are on the company's cheapest tariff, and how much they could save if they are not
- Reforming the Post Office Card Account (POCA) to give up to 4 million people access to lower energy and water tariffs.

Environment

A Conservative Government will make Britain greener by tackling climate change and enhancing our environment. We believe quality of life and environmental issues must be at the heart of politics – which is why we have pledged to improve Britain 's environment by reversing the decline in our biodiversity, improving urban green spaces, providing incentives to recycle and working towards zero waste.

Britain is struggling to cope with growing mountains of waste. Ending our reliance on landfill is not just a question of raising recycling targets and finding better ways of coping with waste from discarded products; it is about changing our mindset. We need to act long before a product becomes waste in the first place - producers should be considering the waste implications when a product is still on the drawing board.

A Conservative Government will therefore introduce a Responsibility Deal on waste - a voluntary arrangement among producers to cut back on the production of waste and improve its disposal. In addition, we will encourage councils to adopt a scheme which gives incentives to households that recycle.

There is also an urgent and growing need to improve the protection of our marine environment, as many of our fish stocks have been over-exploited. We have called for legislation to conserve our marine habitats and are working to ensure the Marine and Coastal Access Bill is strengthened before it becomes law. We will also work to reform the Common Fisheries Policy to achieve a fair deal for our fishermen and seek a pilot scheme, supported by the European Commission, to help end the wasteful practice of fish discarding.

Because climate change adaptation must go hand in hand with mitigation measures, we are committed to increasing Britain 's ability to cope with extreme weather conditions, for example by improving our flood prevention measures.

**NOW
FOR
CHANGE**