

Local authorities have significant power in matters concerning planning and housing, education, local refuse and recycling facilities, parks and leisure facilities, transport, libraries and keeping local people safe.

Too often, elected councillors put party politics ahead of taxpayers when making decisions on these important matters. UKIP believes councils should exist to serve their communities first and we will put power back where it belongs: in the hands of local people.

We will: -

- Continue to give UKIP councillors the freedom to vote how they choose. We believe the community is their 'boss' and they will not be 'whipped' to bloc vote like councillors in other political parties
- Keep Council Tax as low as possible
- Oppose excessive development and actively seek to protect our countryside and green spaces
- Give local people control over planning, by giving them the final say on major planning decisions, such as out-of-town large-scale supermarket developments, wind turbines, incinerators, solar farms and major housing developments, through the use of binding local referenda
- Adopt a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour and crack down on nuisance and noisy neighbours
- Make the setting up of a traveller pitch without permission illegal
- Reinstate weekly bin collections where local communities have lost them and want them reinstated

- Oppose the 'cabinet' system of governance, which puts too much power in the hands of too few people and advocate a committee system which brings more openness, transparency and cross-party collaborative working
- Seek at all times to give council tax payers best value for money by:
- Cutting excessive allowances for councillors
- Slashing excessive pay deals and golden handshakes for council executives
- Limiting the number of highly-paid council employees
- Cutting advertising and self-promotion budgets
- Building partnerships to reduce costs
- Abolishing non-essential jobs and red tape.

UKIP will also undertake a full review of all the many statutory duties national government places on local government, with a view to reducing the burden on councils.