






UKIP Local Manifesto 2006

Today, local councils are weak and powerless. They are too often told what to do by central government. Looking after the interests of their local communities has to take second place. The UK Independence Party believes in giving real democratic power and resources to local communities to tackle issues like planning, crime, social services, transport and education. This summary shows how we believe UKIP can transform your local area – at the same time as *cutting council tax in half*.

Local Taxes

What's the problem? Council Tax has almost doubled in many areas over the past few years, hitting pensioners in particular. A vast amount of money is wasted on bureaucracy and politically correct jobs without the public ever being consulted.






What's the solution?

-  **Reorganise national and local taxes to slash council tax by 50%**
-  **Return financial responsibility to councils by letting them keep local business rates**
-  **Cut the money wasted on politically-correct initiatives and appointments.**

Local Democracy

What's the problem? Local councils rely on government funding and obey government orders rather than listening to those who pay the council tax. The new system of local government gives power to an 'executive cabinet' leaving out most of the elected councillors. And many functions of councils are being taken over by unelected regional bodies.





What's the solution?

-  **Create an English-only Parliament of English MPs sitting on English-only days at Westminster**
-  **Dismantle regional government and return powers to traditional county and borough councils**
-  **Return control over local matters from Whitehall to the Town Hall**
-  **Let local people call a binding local referendum on any major local issue**
-  **Reform the 'cabinet' system, and make councils transparent and accountable to the public.**

Crime

What's the problem? There are more police officers today than ever before, yet there is little visible police presence on the streets. Our police are hamstrung by politically correct rules and form-filling, and they are ignoring low-level crime.

What's the solution?

-  **Reopen local magistrates' courts and police stations, and bring back police houses**
-  **Relieve our police of unnecessary paperwork**
-  **Make police forces accountable to local, not regional or national, authorities**
-  **Ensure stricter sentencing and zero tolerance of antisocial behaviour and petty crime.**



Transport

What's the problem? Public transport needs to be made safer and more attractive. Speed cameras, congestion charges and over-zealous traffic wardens are used merely to raise funds.

What's the solution?

- £ **Closer local control of public transport and improved safety, particularly at night**
- £ **Say NO to crackpot congestion charges and NO to privatisation of parking facilities**
- £ **Remove speed cameras unless they cut accidents.**

Housing

What's the problem? The government claims that two million homes need to be built to solve Britain's housing shortage, yet there is net immigration of 166,000 people per year (Office of National Statistics). Hard-working people find it increasingly difficult to afford decent housing.

What's the solution?

- £ **Return local planning control to local councils and away from faceless central bureaucrats**
- £ **Protect the Green Belt and use central Brown Field sites for redevelopment**
- £ **Restore proper controls on immigration to ease the demand for housing**
- £ **Crack down on nuisance neighbours and repair council housing to restore civic pride.**

Education

What's the problem? Continuous central government interference in schools prevents them doing their job properly. Teachers have to put paperwork and bureaucracy above the needs of pupils.

What's the solution?

- £ **Greater freedom and independence for schools over teaching, examinations and discipline**
- £ **Scrap useless paperwork and trust teachers to do their jobs; keep special schools open**
- £ **Encourage competitive school sports, playing fields and school trips.**

Health & Social Care

What's the problem? Too much red tape is tying up our local services, while politically correct nonsense is replacing defined initiatives designed to help the elderly and the needy.

What's the solution?

- £ **NO increase to home care charges**
- £ **Expand services for the elderly and remove unnecessary bureaucracy**
- £ **Create more residential home places.**

The UK Independence Party has 10 elected members of the European Parliament campaigning to take Britain out of the European Union – we do not think it right that most of UK law comes from Brussels and unelected EU bureaucrats. Likewise, we insist that local government in Britain must be returned from unelected Whitehall bureaucrats to local democrats. In 2006 we aim to raise the number of local UKIP councillors, who will join the campaign for bringing representative democracy back to the British people.