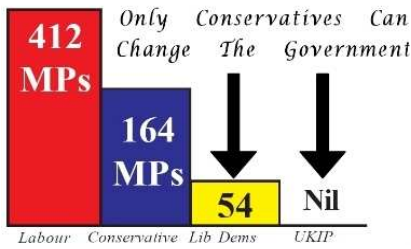


Make Your Vote Count!



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Letter to the Editor: Western Morning News

29 January 2009

Dear Sir

I was interested to see Councillor Brian Greenslade's letter as the Liberal Democrat Leader of Devon County Council in Thursday's Western Morning News.

He notes that "most Councils are run by Conservative Councillors" but of course, that is not the case with Devon County (or Cornwall) although we trust this will change in June.

The Liberal Democrat proposal to scrap Council Tax and replace it with a Local Tax system is naive in that there is a perception that most people would be better off but actually, the amount of revenue which would need to be raised would mean that hard-working families would end-up paying much more than they do at the moment.

As far as I am aware, too, there is no consideration given to the fact that very poor constituencies (such as the Councillor's own, as measured by the number of unemployed adults per household, for example) would have much greater difficulty in raising the revenue to pay all the costs than a rich constituency. Would this mean that the wealthy would flock to certain constituencies, leaving Councils with the biggest expenditure having to charge its poor people a significant local income tax or alternatively, providing far fewer services yet when the local population is the most deserving! Unfortunately, this policy seems to be another one of those suggested by a party which, thankfully, will never have opportunity of putting it into action!

That said, I do agree with him that the Labour Government has systematically withdrawn funding from rural communities meaning that the local Council Tax payer has been obliged to pay more and it is about time this imbalance was corrected. A Conservative vote at the next General Election will ensure our hard pressed rural areas are better represented in Parliament.

Yours faithfully

Philip J Milton

Prospective Member of Parliament for North Devon

