Chris's corner

Chris White is the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Warwick and Leamington

The economic crisis that started with the banks is now affecting us all, with the cost of living going up, incomes coming down, and local families worrying about their future.

Gordon Brown says he needs to borrow more to spend his way out of trouble. But the truth is that this borrowing is just going to pay for the costs of recession - costs such as the reduced tax revenues caused by the shrinking economy. Gordon Brown's borrowing is not a plan to lead us out of recession - and it will lead to higher taxes on us all in the future.

Instead of more borrowing and more taxes, we need targeted action that will help companies stay in business, and help families cope with the rising cost of living.

To help the economy, the Conservatives are calling for a cut in corporation tax, a VAT holiday for small firms for six months, and a cut in small businesses' National Insurance bills. To help families, we will take 9 out 10 first-time buyers out of stamp duty, freeze council tax for two years, and help people with their fuel bills. These are the targeted measures that will help small businesses and hard-pressed families.

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