RESTORING TRUST IN POLITICS

Message from Chris White

Knocking on doors across the constituency, I frequently hear how angry people are with MPs and their widespread abuse of expenses. What has been exposed would be wrong at any time, but is particularly galling whilst so many people are struggling so hard right now to make ends meet. People are genuinely disgusted. I know how they feel, because I'm angry too.

Many have said they feel so betrayed by MPs, and so astonished by their hypocrisy, that they have decided to give up on politics and politicians altogether. However, there is another way.

If elected as your MP at the coming election, I promise you the following. I will:

- ☑ never claim for food
- ☑ never claim for furniture or household goods
- ☑ publish all my personal and office expenses incurred as your Member of Parliament on my website
- ☑ open up my unedited expenses claims to local newspapers on a regular basis
- ☑ meet my own tax liabilities, such as stamp duty, myself – without claiming them from the taxpayer

These are my commitments towards restoring faith in politics locally. The truth is, the only way we can start afresh is to have a General Election as soon as possible, to elect representatives who know that they are there to serve the people not themselves.

For me, serving you in Parliament would be a privilege and an honour – not a way to make a fast buck.

Chris White
Conservative Parliamentary Candidate
Warwick and Leamington

SURVEY

Please answer the 13 questions on both sides of this form and return it in the envelope provided.

MPS' EXPENSES

1. How important is the need to reform MPs' expenses and restore trust in politics compared with issues like the economy, crime and the NHS?

   ☐ More important ☐ About the same ☐ Less important ☐ Not important

2. Which party leader has responded best to the MPs' expenses scandal?

   ☐ Gordon Brown ☐ David Cameron ☐ Nick Clegg ☐ None of them

3. MPs currently receive a 'Communications Allowance' of £10,000 a year to communicate with their constituents via leaflets, websites, etc. David Cameron thinks that this activity shouldn't be funded by the taxpayer. Do you agree?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

4. MPs are currently given an allowance to employ their own staff. Some people have suggested that MPs' staff should be employed by the House of Commons authorities to provide an independent check that they are doing the work they are contracted to do. Do you agree?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

5. After the next Election, there will be 650 MPs each representing about 70,000 electors. David Cameron has argued that we don't need that many MPs, and that we should cut the size of the House of Commons. Do you agree?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

A NEW POLITICS

6. David Cameron has argued that the abuse of MPs expenses is part of a wider problem of people in positions of power looking after their own interests, rather than the people they are meant to serve. What do you think of the following proposals he has made to shift power to individuals or their elected representatives?

P.T.O

a) Requiring the House of Commons to debate an issue or proposal if enough signatures are collected asking it to do so:

☐ A good idea ☐ A bad idea ☐ Don't know

b) Involving members of the public, not just party members, in the selection of each party's candidates for General Elections:

☐ A good idea ☐ A bad idea ☐ Don't know

c) Supporting the return of social and employment laws from European Union (EU) to our national control, requiring a referendum to approve any further transfers of power to the EU and having far more detailed scrutiny in Parliament of EU legislation and spending:

☐ A good idea ☐ A bad idea ☐ Don't know

d) Replacing the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights that spells out the extent and limit of rights more clearly and ensures that any new rights are agreed by elected politicians, not unaccountable judges:

☐ A good idea ☐ A bad idea ☐ Don't know

e) Requiring Parliament to approve any plans to commit British troops to combat:

☐ A good idea ☐ A bad idea ☐ Don't know

7. Do you think there should be a 'recall' power to allow local people to force a by-election if enough of them are unhappy with their current MP, rather than having to wait until the next General Election when they are choosing a government as well as their local MP?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

HONESTY

8. Who do you think is most likely to tell the truth about the state of the economy and the public finances?

☐ Gordon Brown ☐ David Cameron ☐ Nick Clegg ☐ None of them

CHRIS'S COMMITMENTS

9. Do the commitments Chris has made give you confidence that he would behave properly if he is elected as the next MP for Warwick and Leamington?

☐ A lot more confidence ☐ A little more confidence ☐ No change
☐ A little less confidence ☐ A lot less confidence ☐ Don't know

10. Is there anything else he or David Cameron could do to restore your faith in politics?

MAKING SURE WE'RE REPRESENTING EVERYONE'S VIEWS

11. We're interested in whether people's answers to the above questions depend on which party they support. Would you mind saying how you currently think you will vote at the next General Election?

☐ Conservative ☐ Labour ☐ Liberal Democrat
☐ Green ☐ UKIP ☐ BNP ☐ Other (please specify): .....
☐ Undecided – Conservative or Labour ☐ Undecided – but not Labour
☐ Undecided – but not Conservative ☐ Won't vote

AND FINALLY...

12. If you'd like us to communicate the results of this survey to you by email, please fill in your address below:

13. Would you be interested in helping Warwick and Leamington Conservatives?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe - I'd like more information

YOUR NAME:

YOUR ADDRESS:

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Chris White
PO BOX 2036, Leamington Spa, CV32 5ZY

Data Protection Act 1998: returning this survey acknowledges that you consent to this information being held by the Conservative Party.
We will not pass your personal details on to third parties. If you do not wish us to use the information you have provided please tick this box ☐

PEFC