# YOUR COUNCIL IS BROKEN.

## **REFORM WILL FIX IT.**

#### Local messaging

## Local government is broken.

- o There are 3,000 council staff in Britain earning over £100,000 a year.
- Meanwhile, our councils are hundreds of millions of pounds in debt, and the daily interest paid on that debt by local taxpayers ranges from tens to hundreds of thousands of pounds.
- o For example, Cornwall Council has a daily interest bill of £147,000.

## Basic public services are crumbling

- Potholes plague the streets of Britain, causing damage to vehicles and putting even more financial pressure on local people.
- County Durham alone has 65,000 potholes 27 potholes for every single mile.
- These councils have broken their counties. Reform will fix it.

## Reform councillors will bring in a British-style DOGE to audit local councils and stop the waste.

- We won't make empty promises. Our councils are fundamentally broken and are no longer able to deliver for local people.
- Councils across Britain waste eye-watering sums on failed schemes and vanity projects.
- For example, Lancashire County Council spent £520,000 on a fouryear contract for ergonomic chairs for their own staff.
- City of Doncaster Council spent £20 million on bicycle lanes which resulted in no increase in cycling.
- Staffordshire County Council spent £18,000 on driving lessons for asylum seekers.
- Reform will send in the auditors, get rid of the fraudulent contracts and cut wasteful spending.

### • The Conservatives are in a distant third.

- A vote for the Conservatives is a wasted vote. Frankly, they don't deserve your vote after the state they've left these councils in.
- Kemi is so tone deaf and complacent that she launched their local election campaign in Buckinghamshire – a Conservative-led council with the highest council tax increase in the country.

If you want Reform you need to vote for it on May 1st.

#### **Spring Statement**

- Rachel Reeves' Autumn blunder budget set this country up to fail. This Spring Statement is just tinkering around the edges.
  - Her emergency budget last week was nothing more than a rearranging of the deckchairs on the Titanic.
  - The OBR has forecast that tax as a share of the economy will hit a historic high within three years. At 37.6% this is a level reached just after the Second World War and never sustained.
  - The OBR also halved their revised growth forecast for 2025 from 2% in the Autumn to 1% today.
  - They have also given Reeves a 50-50 chance that she will meet her own, self-imposed fiscal rules.
  - The IFS have now said that more tax rises could be coming in the Autumn Budget as a result.
- Labour has wreaked havoc on the UK economy and businesses are worried.
  - More than 300,000 small businesses are planning to cut staff after the rise in Employers' National Insurance Contributions and the minimum wage.
  - The latest S&P Global survey found that British businesses are more pessimistic about their economic prospects than those in heavily sanctioned Russia.

Only Reform UK will cut waste, cut burdensome regulations and cut taxes to get the economy firing again.

#### **Net Zero**

- Net Zero is sending energy bills soaring.
  - Successive Tory and Labour governments have pushed this disastrous Net Zero policy.
  - Energy bills continue to rise, with the UK suffering the highest prices in the Western world, putting pressure on British people and businesses.
- Both the Tories and Labour have foolishly reduced our gas production.
  - The UK has also rejected the exploration of shale gas, which has enabled the US to enjoy electricity prices around 70% lower than the UK.
  - We are importing on average 10-12% of our daily electricity use from overseas, which is making us poorer.
- Net Zero will make the UK poorer.

- Net Zero is estimated to cost the UK £3 trillion, which is more than the entire national debt and would cost UK households over £100,000 a year.
- Kemi is fooling no-one with her anti-Net Zero stance.
  - She voted to enshrine Net Zero by 2050 into law as a backbench MP in 2019 – before she was bound by ministerial collective responsibility.

Reform has consistently said we'd do away with Net Zero and lower your bills.