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Hopkins offers assurances on immigration policy

Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Keighley and Ilkley, has assured local residents that an incoming Tory Government will introduce tougher immigration controls to prevent the UK population reaching 70 million.

Cllr Hopkins was speaking after sending out a survey across Keighley and Ilkley asking residents to tell him what they believed were the most important issues for a new Conservative Government to tackle after the forthcoming General Election.

“I have now received more than 500 responses to this survey and, alongside the economic mess created by Gordon Brown, the huge upsurge in migrant numbers under Labour and the unacceptable pressure this has placed on our public services is what concerns people in Keighley and Ilkley most,” he commented.

“There will always be a need for individuals to move in and out of this country to live and work.

“But the current Labour Government has allowed net immigration to run out of control and increase from around 50,000 each year in the mid-1990s to an average of more than 200,000 between 2004 and 2008.

“At this rate, the UK population is set to rise to 70 million by 2029 with 45 per cent of this increase as a result of new migration.

“This is simply not sustainable – a position backed up in recent days by, amongst others, former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey and ex-House of Commons Speaker Baroness Boothroyd.

“This Labour Government has never been serious about dealing with immigration but I can assure residents in Keighley and Ilkley that a new Conservative Government will be much tougher.

“There will be an annual limit placed on the number of economic migrants allowed to enter this country, together with transitional controls for new EU migrants.

“A proper border police force – with powers to arrest, detain and prosecute offenders – will also be created, and tougher requirements to prevent sham and forced marriages introduced.

“Immigration is often regarded as a sensitive, even taboo, subject both in Keighley and Ilkley and across the country. But this should not be the case.

“It is a serious issue and, as the responses to my survey have made plain, it is a matter of great concern to large numbers of local residents here.

“Sensible, practical and realistic solutions are required and that is precisely what Conservatives will seek to implement should we win the forthcoming General Election.”

ENDS