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We must hold our nerve – as economic recession continues

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has called on local businesses and residents to try to stay positive, after the latest official figures showed that the country is in its longest recession since records began.

The British economy has now been contracting for a year and a half and, according to the Office of National Statistics, shrunk by a further 0.4% between July and September.

“I am a realist and the fact is that these figures are extremely disappointing, to say the very least,” Cllr Hopkins said.

“They will be all the more shocking to many people because Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling have continually told us that Britain would ‘lead the world out of recession’ and that we were ‘better placed than the other major economies’ to deal with its consequences.

“But they were either misleading people or they were in denial because, six months after both France and Germany came out of recession, we continue to be stuck in the mire and now appear to have been the least well-prepared economy in Europe.

“However, we must look to the future. Despite the lack of political leadership offered by Labour, local people and businesses in Keighley and Ilkley must stay strong and we must hold our nerve.

“Economic recovery depends on confidence and, whilst it clearly and understandably doesn’t exist out there at the moment, the General Election will hopefully bring a change of Government and a change of direction both locally and nationally under the Conservatives.”

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