

David Cameron: We need a new direction for this country

Today, David Cameron will address a Conservative rally in Swindon ahead of the local elections next week. He will say:

(check against delivery)

TEN YEARS OF LABOUR

“On Tuesday, we’ll have had ten years of Blair and Brown.

“On Thursday, you can tell them what you think of their ten years.

“Tell them what you think of their NHS cuts.

“Tell them what you think of their pensions tax and their tax con Budget.

“Tell them what you think of the Dome, the dodgy dossiers, the stealth taxes and spin.

“It’s your last chance to vote against Tony Blair.

“It’s your first chance to vote against Gordon Brown.

“So let the whole country give its verdict on their years of waste and let-down.

“It’s time to stand up and say: we’ve had enough of Blair and Brown, we’ve had enough disappointment, it’s time for change and it’s time for hope.

“We need a new government and a new direction for this country and that’s what the modern Conservative Party offers.

CHANGE

“We are the Party of change, hope and optimism today.

“And I want each and every one of you here to go out and tell everyone

what we stand for.

“We want to improve the quality of life for everyone in this country.

“We want a Britain that’s more green, more local, and more family-friendly.

“We want a Britain where politicians are less arrogant about what they can do for us, and more optimistic about what we can all do together.

MORE GREEN

“We want a greener Britain not just because it’s important to fight climate change, not just because it’s good for the planet and good for the next generation.

“We want a greener Britain because cleaner streets are safer streets.

“Because if we look after our local environment, we look after our local society.

“That’s why in this local election campaign we’ve been focusing on fighting crime and grime, and the great work that Conservative councils are doing right across the country.

MORE LOCAL

“Today’s Conservative Party believes in local responsibility, and that’s because we believe in social responsibility.

“If we want to build a more responsible society, we have to give people the opportunity to take responsibility, and that means giving them more power and control over their lives.

“That means more power for local government, because it’s right that decisions should be taken closer to the people who are affected by those decisions.

“So we’ll end the regulations, inspections and audits that drive our local councils mad.

“We’ll stop central government telling local government how to spend its money.

“And we’ll get rid of those costly, unnecessary and undemocratic Regional Assemblies that nobody wants and nobody voted for.

MORE FAMILY-FRIENDLY

“There’s one thing above all else that drives me in politics, and that’s my belief that strong families are at the heart of a strong society.

“Social responsibility starts at home, and we need to do everything we can to make sure that every child in Britain has the chance to grow up in a stable, loving home.

“We’ve got to make this country more family-friendly.

“Let’s do more to help families with the childcare they need.

“Let’s encourage more flexible working so parents can spend more time with their children.

“And let’s end the discrimination in our tax and benefits system that penalises couples for staying together.

“The family is the most important institution in society, and we’ve got to do more to support it.

LESS ARROGANT

“We believe in families because we know that if we get families right, we’re more likely to solve our other social problems.

“We don’t believe, like Labour, that government can solve all our social problems through initiatives and regulations and laws.

“We don’t have their arrogance about what politicians can do.

“We have more faith in what people can do.

“We believe that if you trust people, they behave more responsibly.

“So we will trust the professionals in our public services, and get rid of the red tape and targets that stops them doing their job and using their judgement.

“Trusting teachers to discipline their classrooms.

“Trusting police officers to fight crime and anti-social behaviour.

“Trusting the doctors and nurses in our health service who are so fed up with a government that never listens to what they have to say and never stops telling them what to do.

MORE OPTIMISTIC

“We will be different: optimistic about the people of this country, and optimistic about our future.

“Britain wants change, and we are the only Party that can offer that change. Blair may be going, but we now know that it’s Brown who’s coming, the man who’s raised our taxes, wrecked our pensions, and ruined trust in politics with his endless centralisation, meddling and spin.

“New leader: same old Labour.

“That’s not what Britain needs.

“So let’s go out there in these last few days and take our message of change, optimism and hope to every street and every home and fight for a better NHS, safer streets, a greener environment and a better quality of life for everyone.”