



## Stratford Liberal Democrats Press Release 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008

### Tories ignoring Stratford district on new jobs front

As recession draws closer, figures show that Stratford district has not had a proper share of the new jobs which the County Council has helped create, according to the Liberal Democrats.

The Warwickshire Investment Partnership (WIP) coordinates the economic development functions of local government bodies in the County and helps create new jobs by responding to inward investment enquiries from all over the world. Over the past year WIP helped create 1242 new jobs and safeguarded 813 existing jobs in the County, according to Cllr Saint (Con, Shipston on Stour County division) in his Annual Report as Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, submitted to a County Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

However, information now provided to the Liberal Democrats by WIP shows that only 44 (4%) of the jobs created and just 4 (less than 1%) of the jobs safeguarded were in the Stratford district, even though Stratford district makes up 22% of the population of Warwickshire.

‘When the Conservatives abolished the District Council’s Economic Development Unit, they used the excuse that the work would be better done by the County Council’, said Cllr Peter Moore (Lib Dem Stratford). ‘But for some reason the County Council – also run by the Conservatives – seems to be directing nearly all the new jobs to other parts of the County’.

‘Stratford District has nearly a quarter of the population of the County, but last year got only 4% of the new jobs which the County Council helped create. The Conservatives seem to be relegating it to the role of Cinderella as far as new jobs are concerned. With a recession coming and jobs already being lost we will be asking Cllr Saint and the Conservatives why they appear to be neglecting Stratford district so badly’.

#### Notes:

1. Warwickshire Investment Partnership was established in 1998 and responds to inward investment enquiries from all over the world. The Partnership is a working arrangement between the Economic Development functions of Warwickshire County Council, the five District & Borough Councils and other government agencies.
2. Population – mid 2007 estimates: Stratford district: 117,800. Warwickshire: 526,000 (per County Council Warwickshire Observatory figures).
3. County Council meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October: Agenda item 8, para 3.4.
4. Stratford district figures from Mr Ross Keefe, Warwickshire Investment Partnership. Copy of email available on request.
5. More information: Peter Moore 01789 269630.