

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **Timothy KIRKHOPE**

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1945 Timothy was educated at the Royal Grammar School in the City and subsequently at the Law Society's College of Law at Guildford Surrey.

In February 1974 Timothy fought his first Parliamentary campaign for Durham and Sedgfield in the 'Miner's Election' where he fought a robust campaign. Here he obtained the highest pro-Conservative swing in the Country at that election. In 1975, he was selected by the Darlington Conservatives as their Parliamentary candidate in a marginal seat which had changed from Labour to Conservative and back again on many occasions.

In 1982 Timothy was elected to the Northumberland County Council for his home Ward of Bywell. Also the same year he was appointed as a Member of the Northern Region Health Authority and was invited to join the Board of Newcastle International Airport, a post he held for 3 years. It was whilst he was serving on the Airport Board that Timothy qualified as a Pilot and he has been enthusiastic about Flying ever since. His support for the development of Leeds-Bradford International Airport is well known especially his significant role in obtaining 24 hours operating status for this vital and strategic part of the Yorkshire Regions infrastructure.

In 1986 Timothy was selected as the prospective Parliamentary candidate for Leeds North East. In 1987 he was elected MP for this seat taking over from Sir Keith Joseph. In 1990 he joined the Government Whips Office whilst Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister. Later, under John Major he was promoted in the Whips Office being the Scottish Whip for 4 years and responsible for the Environment, Heritage, Agriculture, and Defence Departments in turn. In 1992 he became a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury and Senior Whip. In 1995 he was Vice-Chamberlain of the Royal Household, providing her Majesty the Queen with an important link with the House of Commons and writing a detailed resume of activity in the House for her each day.

In the Autumn of 1995 he moved to the Home Office as Under-Secretary of State responsible for Immigration, Race and Community Relations, Licensing and Gambling, and International Police issues. Whilst in Parliament Timothy became the Deputy Chairman of the Governing Bodies Association for Independent Schools a post he held between 1990 and 1998 and he continued as a Governor of his old school, the Royal Grammar School Newcastle.

In 1997, Timothy left Parliament and immediately re-established his legal practice. In 1998 the opportunity arose to be considered as a European Parliamentary Candidate for the new Region of Yorkshire and The Humber under a new Proportional Representation Voting system introduced by the Labour Government. Timothy decided to allow his name to go forward and he was delighted when he was successfully elected in 1999. After his victory he was appointed both Chief Whip and Spokesman on Justice and Home Affairs for the British Conservative Delegation in Europe. In December 2001 he was asked to represent the Conservative Party as a full member of the European Convention on the EU Constitution, which completed its work in the autumn of 2003. Timothy did not agree with the outcome of the Convention, i.e. the EU Constitution and published, with the support of Rt Hon William

Hague MP, the first edition of his "Simplifying Treaty" in response. The Conservative Party support Timothy's text as a welcome and thoughtful contribution to the Constitutional debate, pointing Europe's policy-makers in the right direction.

Timothy was re-elected as No: 1 in Yorkshire and the Humber in the June 2004 European Elections. He served as the first European Democrat Vice-President of the EPP-ED political group in the Parliament in the subsequent internal elections, and, between December 2004 and November 2007 he was the Leader of the British Conservative Delegation in the European Parliament. In 2007 he published his updated Simplifying Treaty, in light of the ongoing constitutional debate, having also become Vice-Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee. He is also Conservative Spokesman on the Transport and Tourism Committee, a member of the Australia and New Zealand Delegation and a member of the Temporary Committee on Climate Change. He was re-elected Leader of the Conservative Delegation in November 2008 and led the Conservatives to a resounding victory in the June 2009 European Parliament Elections.

After his re-elected in June 2009 Timothy immediately set about consolidating the creation of the new European Conservatives and Reformists Group, in which the British Conservatives now sit. Timothy was elected as Deputy Chairman of the ECR Group in July 2009 as well as continuing to lead the British Conservative Delegation. He is also ECR Coordinator for the European Parliament's Committee on Justice and Homes Affairs and is a substitute member on the Culture and Education Committee. He is an active member of the European Parliament's US Delegation and regular participant in the EP - US Counter Terrorism dialogue.