



A New Start  
for **Derby**

*ambition, pride & integrity*

 **Conservative**

# we promise to deliver...

If the Conservatives lead the next Council, we want to be clear and transparent on our priorities and guiding principles. We believe that by taking the initiative and being innovative and positive, we can deliver a modern, bright and thriving City.



“ Derby is a great City. But it needs a new start and a fresh leadership team to repair trust with its residents... ”

*Cllr Matthew Holmes, leader of the Derby City Conservative Group.*

## economic competence

A Conservative-led administration will ensure that every decision made by the Council is robust, well considered and offers good value for money to local tax payers.

## fairness & compassion

A Conservative-led administration will ensure that every area of Derby and every community is treated fairly.

We will ensure that residents across the City receive fair funding and investment within their neighbourhood.

We will ensure that the most vulnerable people in our City receive the help and support they need.

## an end to political agendas

Despite the hard work and best efforts of staff across the Council, under Labour control, Derby City Council is broken and has become dysfunctional. For too long, Labour have pursued their own political agenda.

We will approach every decision we make by remembering that we are public servants elected to deliver what is best for our City.

**Derby first, not party first.**

# delivering fundamental change

In Derby, Labour gained power in 2012 and moved quickly to impose oppressive political control at every level of the Council.

Over time, this has significantly contributed to create a dysfunctional organisation, the loss of key members of staff and a break down in public confidence - not only in the Council itself but in all local Councillors.

It has led to decision making focused on political outcomes rather than what is best for the City. That approach has led to millions of pounds of Taxpayers' money being wasted that could otherwise have been used to fund local services.

Labour's approach to running the Council in this way has also been the primary cause of the damaging breakdown in positive cross-party working between the political parties - something that is vital in any properly functioning local authority.

In short, Derby City Council is broken and in need of a radical transformation.

The Conservatives believe that Labour's "Leader & Cabinet" approach to governance is no longer fit for purpose in Derby. We believe that fundamental change is urgently needed.

## A new start...

A Conservative-led Council will bring about a major change in the way the Council is run by moving to a Committee System and end the Leader & Cabinet model that is currently in place.

The new Committee System, following a suitable preparation and transition period, will give all Councillors, regardless of political party, a greater say in the Council's priorities and every aspect of how decisions are made.

Crucially, this will also allow formal engagement with partners across the City and the public to ensure they are part of the decision-making process.

Each committee created would cover specific areas of Council services and include members from all political parties to deliver a new era of openness, transparency and bring about meaningful engagement with members of the public.

A full review of the cost of the governance within the Council will also be carried out aimed at delivering savings to ensure and demonstrate best value to the local taxpayer.

# a more efficient council

The Council currently spends over a **£100million** each year on goods and services. We want to reduce this spending by working smarter and investing the money saved into Council services.

We will...

- Reduce the Council's spending on the goods and services by 1% to deliver a saving of around £1million per year and aim to achieve a medium-term 2% saving. This will be delivered by a root-and-branch audit along with dialogue and competitive re-tendering where possible and appropriate.

The creation of a Derby City Procurement Strategy Board will;

Drive greater efficiencies, value for money and oversee strategically sourcing reviews and provide robust internal challenge to major procurement projects.

Inform members' decision-making and monitor the achievement of savings targets and compliance of procurement policies / procedures.

Explore and realise partnerships with others to get the best deal in terms of cost and quality.

We will also...

- Ensure those paying any increase in Council Tax see improvements and investment in their neighbourhood.

- Keep any increase in council tax to a minimum and ensure that its justified to deliver core services - not vanity projects.
- Work hard to demonstrate how Council Tax revenue will deliver improved services across Derby for all communities and neighbourhoods.
- Review the Council's Customer Services to ensure face to face, internet and telephone services are fit for purpose and that they meet the needs of residents.
- Have a responsible but flexible approach to the use of the Council's £200million of reserves to ensure that it is being put to use in the best interests of the City.
- Where appropriate, carry out a thorough review of departmental spending to ensure every penny of taxpayers' money is being spent wisely and to deliver savings.

Spending on private consultants is currently excessive, therefore we will:

- Impose a spending cap on the use of business consultants, cutting the Council's current spending by 50%.

# a more efficient council

Staff sickness and absence within Derby City Council is too high. So much time is now lost that it means, on average, employees work the equivalent of just **a four-day week**.

The Council's **environmental credentials** also need re-evaluating to ensure that an effective climate change strategy reduces CO2 emissions, delivers on air quality objectives and achieves savings.

A Conservative-led Council will deliver a package of measures to reduce the current levels of staff sickness absence across the Council.

We will:

- Introduce a culture of 'wellness' and make managers more accountable for their departments, ensuring that they understand their responsibility to reduce and manage absenteeism.
- Adopt a robust target of reducing absenteeism to below the national average.
- Provide high quality child-care facilities within the Council House.
- Find ways to reward good performance and attendance in all departments.

## We're blue, but we're green...

It's time to revisit energy reduction targets across the Council. We will...

- Consider an Energy Management System to shut down Council IT and related equipment when not in use.
- Review day-to-day practices across all departments to test environmental credentials.
- Urgently review all options to seek a pro-active way forward to improve Derby's Air Quality.
- Review the Council's Customer Services to ensure face to face, internet and telephone services are fit for purpose and that they meet the needs of residents.

# a desirable place to live, work & visit

Under a Conservative-led Council, Derby will be a City where wealth makers thrive so that we enjoy high levels of employment. It will be a City that is **attractive, clean and safe**. Derby will be a City that is a desirable place to live, work and visit.

We will...

- Restore pride back into Derby by carrying out an immediate programme to 'deep clean' the City centre.
- Reduce the number of street sellers and peddlers in the City-centre.
- Work in partnership to provide incentives aimed at bringing empty retail units back into use.
- Deliver a safer, drug-free City-centre.
- Make Derby City Council an authority with one of the most robust licensing regimes in the country (including Taxi licensing) that is focused on public protection and safeguarding.
- Have a zero tolerance to the sale of illicit and counterfeit goods, cigarettes and alcohol in the City.
- Tackle the issue of unauthorised posters, banners and road-side advertising across the City. This will encourage and significantly increase authorised advertising revenue for the Council and help to keep our communities free of street clutter.
- Significantly increase floral displays across Derby and make the City's gateways attractive and welcoming.
- Establish a programme to improve and enhance local district centres across Derby.

# neighbourhoods & community

A conservative-led Council will provide all local residents across Derby with **high quality front line services and local investment**.

We will...

- Reinststate a free fortnightly garden waste collection service, scrapping Labour's 'Brown Bin Tax'.
- Restore local community funding that has been axed by Labour:

£50,000 would be given to every ward in the City to improve and support the local community. Neighbourhood Officers will be provided to support ward Councillors, help organise and agree local priorities as well as manage spending.

- Offer flexibility for ward Councillors to adopt a local neighbourhood structure that provides community engagement and delivers the best outcomes for their area.
- Ensure that every area of Derby will have support from Local Area Co-ordinators within their community to support all vulnerable people.
- Encourage recycling and reduce fly tipping by working to deliver a second major recycling and waste centre that offers an alternative to the Raynesway facility.

A Conservative-led Council will create a dedicated source of funding to support voluntary groups, organisations and charities to deliver schemes and projects aimed at:

- Supporting the protection of children against abuse and improving their health, mobility, independence and self-esteem.
- Supporting the protection of both men and women against rape, domestic and sexual abuse.
- Improving the quality of life of older people.
- Supporting homeless people and the vulnerable with their housing needs.
- Providing support for those with current and historic mental health issues.
- Providing support for people with disabilities.

# leisure & culture

It's important that the Council drives an affordable and successful leisure and cultural offer for the City to help boost our local economy, support businesses and bring our communities together.

Labour are currently planning to demolish the Assembly Rooms and build a replacement venue in the same location. Labour's plan will cost £44million and require £35million of borrowing that could result in the need to increase Council tax for decades. We will...

- Re-open the Assembly Rooms. Refurbishment would be carried out so that the venue can be brought back into use to provide concerts, performances, conferences and events.

We are confident this can be delivered with a budget of around £10million and, unlike Labour's plan to demolish and rebuild the venue, our plan would not require an unnecessary burden on the Derby Taxpayer from massive borrowing.

In regard to Derby Arena, we will:

Consider all options to ensure that Derby Arena ceases to require a subsidy from the local taxpayer. Transferring the management of the Arena or even selling the facility / securing a long-term lease agreement will not be ruled out.

Labour are also pressing ahead with a new City swimming pool based on a large traditional 50-metre pool along with a far smaller area of leisure water, such as slides and play equipment.

It has been our view for over two years that a new 'Waterpark and Swimming Pool' complex featuring flumes, play structures and other similar attractions that are complemented by a configurable traditional pool with seating for spectators, could be a better option for the City. We will...

- Continue with Derby's new swimming pool project but pause for a review on the design and scrutiny of commercial viability - ensuring that the final plan is supported by a majority of Derby residents and that it delivers a world class facility for all.

We are not convinced that Labour's proposed facility is what the residents of our City want or that there is a viable business plan that will not result in a significant ongoing taxpayer subsidy.

# leisure & culture

We value our local libraries and want to see them thrive as community hubs without the threat of closure.

The current Labour-run council have signed a formal agreement with Derby based charity organisation, Direct Help and Advice (DHA) who are working in partnership with Community Action Derby and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This transfers the management of: Allenton, Allestree, Blagreaves, Chaddesden, Chellaston & Shelton Lock, Derwent, Mackworth, Sinfen, Spondon and Oakwood libraries from Derby City Council to DHA.

The agreement includes council support and funding for four years to establish the libraries within a 'Community Managed Library' (CML) model. However this has resulted in the potential loss of around 33 library staff as the CML model is based on local volunteers supported by DHA management staff.

The Council will continue to run Mickleover, Alvaston, Pear Tree, the Local Studies and Family History libraries along with a new 'Central Library' within the council house.

We will:

- Scrutinise the viability of the proposed transition of libraries to a CML model and ensure local communities and councillors are fully consulted and involved.
- Review proposed library staff redundancies.

Should the agreement that the Labour Council has signed proceed, we will:

- Carry out regular reviews to test the current assumption that the Council financial support for libraries under the CML model will end in four years and be ready to change the arrangements if we feel that library services were not being properly managed and / or maintained.

# children & young people

A Conservative-led Council will work hard to offer the best possible learning environments for future generations and prioritise safeguarding and early interventions.

We believe that children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families deserve better. We will:

- Halt the current SEND review and consult with all parents to put into place our SEND plan.
- Support SEND children to remain in mainstream schools where appropriate.
- Increase Enhanced Resource Units across the City and create additional SEND specialist school placements within the City.
- Procure providers to increase support available to SEND families for respite care.

Currently Derby City Council is performing poorly in national education outcome league tables and this is not good enough.

A Conservative-led Council will work to ensure Derby's children achieve the better outcomes that they deserve. We will:

- Prioritise safeguarding and continue to support early intervention and a multi-agency team approach.
- Work with the government to provide mental health support in Derby Schools.
- Ensure all of Derby's children's homes are judged good or outstanding.
- Work hard to support all maintained schools in Derby to achieve 'good' or 'outstanding' by 2020.
- Increase the number of apprenticeships at the Council.
- Simplify the foster care allowance system and introduce a salaried scheme.

# transport & highways

A Conservative-led Council will adopt a fair and balanced approach to highways and transport to keep Derby moving.

We will...

- Ensure the Council's priority is to quickly fix pot holes / defects but also look to maintain and improve our highway network while ensuring we secure external funding to support cyclists and public transport.
  - Deliver a fair deal for the motorist. Bus lane, bus stop and parking enforcement cameras will only be used if they are justified, fair and clearly signed. We will focus on good traffic management to keep the City moving and safe rather than creating revenue.
  - Review parking charges and the times that they are imposed. Our aim would be to provide a package of measures that would include free parking in the City Centre to support local retail and leisure.
  - Actively work with motorists, cyclists, bus users, groups and organisations to ensure they are able to influence policy, highway and public-realm projects.
- Look at the viability of the use of bus-lanes by vehicles outside of peak times and electric vehicles at any time.
  - Explore options to encourage and reward car sharing for high occupancy vehicles.
  - Review traffic-lights and other highway infrastructure to improve traffic flows, to reduce congestion and journey times.

# delivering a sustainable future

Derby's current City boundary is too compact, restricting economic growth and the Council's ability to deliver the **high-quality services residents deserve** in the long-term.

The significant amounts of new housing developments on the edge of Derby are creating an 'artificial' and unsustainable expansion of the City.

While the impact felt will be significant, Derby City will not receive the millions of pounds in Council Tax that will be raised each year from these homes.

We will...

- Commit the Council to the principle of significantly expanding the Derby City boundary to the City's recognised 'Economic Boundary'.

Council Tax revenue would increase by around 25% each year, delivering an extra £20million to invest in local services as well as significantly boosting the business rates that the Council receives.

The current City boundary also leaves Derby prone to intensive and inappropriate housing developments. By expanding it we will return planning decisions back to the City ensuring that

developments are only ever granted in the best interests of local residents and Derby.

We will also...

- Work aggressively to bring empty housing, "brown-field" and derelict sites back into use, seeking available government funding to help support this.
- Review the status of Derby Homes (an arm's length management organisation created by Derby City Council to manage, maintain and improve its Council houses and estates) to consider bringing it 'in house'.

The review would assess factors such as duplication between Derby Homes and the Council that could, if reduced, deliver significant savings whilst retaining a high level of service.

# Derby City Conservatives

 [facebook.com/derbyconservatives](https://facebook.com/derbyconservatives)

 [info@derbyconservatives.com](mailto:info@derbyconservatives.com)

 [derbyconservatives.com](http://derbyconservatives.com)



Promoted by Ruth Szarkowski on behalf of Derby City Conservatives all of;  
Derby Conservatives, 2b Chapel Street, Spondon, Derby DE21 7JP.

---

*local election 2018*