



# Your Derby, Our Derby

*Delivering exceptional services*

*Enhancing the quality of life*

*A City of **innovation, technology and business***

# We believe...

- That residents, communities and businesses of the City are its most important resource.
- In honest and open local government with integrity, accountability and the highest standards of governance.
- In listening to the residents of Derby and responding to their needs.



“ Derby has come a long way in the last twelve months, but we still face many challenges. We are asking for the continued support of the residents that we serve to allow us to deliver our long-term plan.

That plan, detailed in this manifesto, will ensure that Derby is a thriving, attractive and well maintained City.

There is a clear choice at this election - quite simply, Derby cannot afford a return to a Labour Council because all of the hard work of the last twelve months may well be reversed and many of our important plans for the future scrapped. ”

**Cllr Christopher Poulter**  
**Leader of Derby City Conservatives.**

## 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 was broken and became dysfunctional. For too long, Labour pursued their own political agenda.

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

We believe strongly in Derby first, not party first.

# Transforming the ‘broken Council’ that we inherited from Labour

**Labour took the City to the brink of ruin. The new Conservative Council has a long-term plan to repair the damage. Derby cannot afford to hand back the keys to the party that crashed the car.**

In May 2018, Derby City Council was broken and in need of a radical transformation. Labour had created a dysfunctional organisation that had lost the confidence of the public.

Their approach led to decision making based on militant party politics rather than what is best for the City. Disgracefully, this included appalling behaviour by some Labour Councillors that included bullying and intimidation of Council staff.

It was also the primary cause of the damaging breakdown in positive cross-party working between Councillors - something that is vital in any properly functioning local authority.

However, in less than a year, the incoming Conservative-led Council has made very significant progress in repairing that damage and a recent independent report has recognised this.

We need your support to continue our work as the independent report also confirmed that, sadly, there are current Labour Councillors who have not changed their approach.

**A return to Labour’s way of running the Council would have catastrophic consequences for our City...**

## Governance & Elections

Currently, the Council governance is run via a ‘leader and cabinet’ system. This offers significant and decisive decision making powers for the ruling group and the Councillors that have portfolio responsibility.

We have agreed to continue the work being carried out by a cross-party group to present options for a move to a ‘committee system’. This would be a very different way of working aimed at providing more inclusive cross-party involvement in decision making, but we have been clear that it must not increase costs or bureaucracy.

We are also open to considering a move from local elections in ‘thirds’ to ‘all out’ in Derby. Currently elections in ‘thirds’ means that one of the three ward Councillors representing the 17 areas of Derby stands for election each year, then one year with no elections.

Moving to ‘all out’ elections would mean all three of the ward Councillors representing the seventeen areas of Derby will stand for election together just once every four years.

We will ask residents, businesses and stakeholders for their views on which option is best for the City.

# An efficient and financially competent Council

**Good finance management leads by example to encourage growth whilst demonstrating best use of tax payers' money.**

## **We will...**

- reduce the Council's spending on goods and services. This will be delivered by a continued challenge and review of the procurement process.
- consider joint procurement with other local authorities to deliver savings or better value while retaining goods and services that are of a high quality.

## **The creation of a Derby City Procurement Strategy Board will...**

- drive greater efficiencies, value for money and oversee strategically sourcing reviews. It will 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...**

- work hard to demonstrate how Council Tax revenue will deliver improved services across Derby for all communities and neighbourhoods.
- keep any increase in Council Tax to a minimum and ensure that it is justified to deliver core services - not vanity projects.
- improve the Council's Customer Services to ensure face-to-face, internet and telephone services are fit for purpose and that they are simplified. Where appropriate, the development of customer service mobile apps will also be pursued.
- continue to review departmental spending to ensure every penny of taxpayers' money is being spent wisely and delivers savings.
- continue to encourage a culture of 'wellness' and make managers more accountable for their departments, ensuring that they understand their responsibility to reduce and manage absenteeism.
- continue with our work to reduce absenteeism to below the national average.

# Derby – Big vision, Bright future

We will continue to build upon our City's proud manufacturing heritage while further establishing our growing reputation as a creative, world leader in cutting edge research, development and high technology.

## We will...

- pursue the delivery of an ultra-fast 'GigaFast Broadband' fibre connection to every house and business in Derby by 2023.

This would bring about tens of millions of pounds' worth of innovation and productivity to Derby, as well as enhancing the value of people's homes.

- explore an e-sports initiative that would establish Derby as a UK centre in electronic sports and gaming, supported by the digital infrastructure and support facilities required to achieve this.
- establish a City Centre 'Make and Trade' Zone for a new business community that design, code, make and trade from their premises.

This will be made possible through relaxed planning, business rates, parking and rental regimes to complementary services such as legal, intellectual property, design and accountancy etc.

- develop and deliver a plan to diversify former retail uses, reinvigorate the evening economy and generate new economic activities in the City Centre.

- establish an organisation to promote and co-ordinate Derby's technical, digital and creative business leaders.

This will drive forward improvements in digital infrastructure, signpost financial support and develop workspace.

- establish a Derby Employment Hub with priority given to digital skills and including brokerage of business interactions with schools, account management, work experience, apprenticeships and employer engagement.
- pursue our adopted policy of expanding the Derby City boundary to a much larger 'Economic Boundary'.

# Derby – Big vision, Bright future

Derby will be a City where wealth makers, investors and entrepreneurs thrive so that we enjoy high levels of employment.

## We will...

- examine the options, feasibility and investment required for a rapid mass transit route to connect to the HS2 station at Toton, East Midlands Airport and Nottingham, including the Nottingham tram network.

This could include a park-and-ride scheme at Spondon.

- increase our efforts internationally to ensure Derby is recognised and respected outward-looking national and global partner.

We will secure significant international deals and agreements over the next 12 months to deliver major investment from abroad into our City.

- bring forward a range of schemes for residential development in the City Centre including conversion of buildings as well as student housing projects and family housing.
- work in partnership to promote, develop and deliver a University Quarter programme to enhance the look and feel of Derby as a vibrant learning city.
- ensure that residents and workers have access to a suitable range of high-quality affordable homes which support communities and improve quality of life.

# Neighbourhoods & Community

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

## We will...

- commit to the free, all year round, fortnightly garden waste collection service in the long-term by encouraging residents to recycle food waste in their brown bins. This will increase the City's recycling rates and cut the cost of dealing with black bin waste.
- allocate a dedicated uniformed Public Protection Officer for every area in Derby to tackle anti-social behaviour, noise, illegal and nuisance parking, irresponsible school parking, littering and fly tipping.  
  
Our uniformed Public Protection Officers will also work into the night and at weekends in your neighbourhood and will also be present on buses to ensure safety for passengers.
- introduce a City-wide Public Space Protection Order to tackle irresponsible dog owners - doubling the current amount of a fine for those who fail to pick up after their dogs, and for those who don't carry dog-waste bags.
- explore the provision of free wi-fi across the City.
- consider the feasibility of a 'Council Lottery' to raise money for good causes and community projects.
- continue to restore local community funding that was axed by Labour:  
  
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£10,000 will be given to every ward to spend at a community level in 2019. This will directly support local community projects, groups and improvements. Funding will be increased in future years.
- ensure Neighbourhood Officers are provided to support ward Councillors, help organise and agree local priorities as well as manage spending.
- offer flexibility for ward Councillors to establish a local neighbourhood structure that provides community engagement and delivers the best outcomes for their area.
- provide local compactor days across Derby to offer a bulky waste recycling service for residents rather than having to travel to Raynesway Recycling Centre. This will also help to reduce fly tipping.
- reconfigure Derby's Raynesway Recycling Centre to improve access and operation.

# A safe & desirable place to live, work & visit

**A City that is attractive, clean and safe.**

**A City that is a desirable place to live, work and visit.**

## **We will...**

- continue our work to restore pride back into Derby by carrying out more deep cleans in the City centre and the suburbs.
- invest in new street cleaning 'scrubber' vehicles for use in the City Centre and in Derby's district centres.
- deliver a City centre that is safe and welcoming for all.
- continue our work to 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.
- commit to ensuring Derby's taxi fleet is one of the safest and cleanest in the country with consequences for those who don't meet our adopted standards.
- continue to lobby government to deal the issue of 'out of town' taxi driver registration that circumvent our local standards.
- encourage and work to deliver a culture that achieves the highest possible food hygiene standards in all of Derby's restaurants and businesses.  
  
The importance and public awareness of each business's hygiene standards will also be increased.
- drive up food hygiene standards by regularly publishing the City premises food hygiene ratings. Consistent high standards will be recognised.

# A safe & desirable place to live, work & visit

## We will...

- continue to increase floral displays across Derby and make the City's gateways attractive and welcoming. We also will work with local communities and businesses to volunteer or make contributions to positive improvement their neighbourhood.
- deliver a programme to improve and enhance local district centres across Derby.
- consult on a policy of food take-aways, contributing to keeping our City clean by paying for additional bins or services in return for advertising sponsorship.
- continue to support Derbyshire Police to reduce serious crime including knife crime, burglary and exploitation.
- continue our policy of zero-tolerance to the sale of illicit and counterfeit goods in the City.

## A Clean & Green Derby - we will:

- consider ways to offer reduced parking-charges and the use of bus lanes for zero emission vehicles.
- work to secure the funding to expand Derby's e-bike scheme and seek sponsorship from the private sector.
- deliver clean air across Derby while ensuring that there is a fair and reasonable approach to all forms of transport.
- make Derby a leading City in the use of zero emission transportation.
- continue to secure grant funding to help local businesses become energy efficient and environmentally sustainable.
- deliver a cleaner fleet strategy for the Council's vehicles - leading the way and playing our part.
- explore options to encourage and reward car sharing for high occupancy vehicles.
- start a 'Smart and Clean Movement' to explore and pioneer new transport technologies including smart ticketing, on-demand bus services, low and zero emission vehicles and parking space applications.

# Transport & Highways

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

## **We will...**

- continue to ensure the Council's focus and priority is to fix pot holes and defects quickly, and to improve our highway network for all road-users, public transport and cyclists.
- continue to invest in equipment and new technology to ensure highway repairs are made in the most efficient way.
- invest in a 'road condition detection system' to be installed on public transport and Council vehicles that will radar-map our road network and then transmit defects data back to the Council Streetpride team for pro-active repairs and improvements to be carried out.
- focus on good traffic-management to keep the City moving and safe rather than revenue generation.
- engage with motorists, cyclists, bus users, groups and organisations to ensure they can influence policy, highway and public-realm projects.
- review traffic-lights and other highway infrastructure to improve traffic flows, to reduce congestion and journey times.
- identify and deliver drop off / pick up zones in the City Centre to ensure we have robust but fair traffic enforcement.
- re-establish the widespread use of Speed Activated Speed warning signs that display a speed limit and / or a warning message to remind the driver / rider to slow down. This will help address road safety speeding issues in areas identified by local residents.
- allow advertising on Council vehicles to raise money for investment in services.

# Leisure & Culture

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

## We will...

- press ahead with our plans to refurbish and re-open the Assembly Rooms. This will include more retail and leisure units facing the Market Place.

The venue will offer a wide variety of concerts, performances, events and versatile conferences facilities all year round.

- press ahead with our plans to build a brand-new swimming pool complex at Moorways with a 50-metre pool and exciting waterpark including a play structure elevation, two flumes, a wave pool, a multi-slide and a 'wave rider'.
- consider all options to ensure that Derby Arena delivers a programme of events that complement those offered by the Assembly Rooms while maximising its potential as a velodrome.
- deliver the very best Market offer in the country via our ongoing £11million investment in the Guildhall Market.  
Once completed there will be a diverse range of retailers, with an emphasis on food and drink.  
The ground floor will include a food-court and flexible events space trading throughout the day that will form part of Derby's growing night time economy.  
Toilet facilities are also set to be improved, alongside lift and stair access to the balcony retail / units.
- commit to maintaining the Queen's Leisure Centre until the City's new Moorways complex is open. We will review the future use of the Queen Street facility at that time to consider the options for its future use.
- commit to maintaining a library service across Derby that delivers for our communities in the long-term.

# 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 will...

- continue to invest in early help and intervention and multi-agency working.
- recruit thirty more Derby City Council foster carers.
- support 'Grow Your Own Social Worker Schemes' via up-skilling and training staff.
- safely reduce the number of looked-after children placed out-of-area.
- safely reduce the number of looked after children.
- support and inspire all Derby City Council-maintained schools to be outstanding or good.
- support all schools in achieving great outcomes for Derby children regardless of the governance arrangements of the school.
- forge closer links between schools, further and higher education to engage and inspire young people.
- we will continue to build on our work to increase apprenticeships significantly for young people across Derby and within the Council.
- support care-leavers to find good jobs and suitable housing.
- work with the schools' sector to improve inclusion.
- expand mental health support in schools.
- close the gap in terms of educational outcomes and aspirations for all Derby children.
- increase the number of apprenticeships at Derby City Council.
- make sure all Derby City Council children's homes are rated good or outstanding.
- continue to work with parents and the education sector to improve the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision in Derby.
- continue to lobby the Government for adequate funding for SEND and Schools.

# Adults & Housing

**We recognise that Adult Social Care is currently under financial pressure as people live longer.**

**We would all like to live as long and as healthily as possible in our own homes but if that is not possible we are committed to providing both preventative and practical support.**

We believe...

- in building on our belief that nobody needs to be rough-sleeping on the streets of Derby and will continue to commit to solving the issue of homelessness.
- that community support should be offered throughout all neighbourhoods to alleviate social isolation.

That is why we have been working with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to deliver a 'Safe Space'.

In pursuing the delivery of the Safe Space it will provide; rapid assessment, basic shelter as an alternative to rough sleeping for anyone 18 or over irrespective of any drug and / or alcohol issues.

The right housing pathway and support can then be identified and put into place.

- that information on care and support should be easily available to allow people choice.
- that the transition from children's to adults' services should be seamless.
- there should be closer integration of Social Care and Health Services.
- that the reduction of unhealthy eating, smoking, alcohol-consumption and inappropriate drug usage should be a high priority for the Council.
- that the Council should continue to support the use of Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) to allow people to choose how they are cared for and supported.
- in bringing empty properties back into use to provide much needed accommodation.

A Conservative Council will also build on the progress already made that includes purchasing new build homes (20 properties on Hackwood Farm, Mickleover including 18 adapted properties for special needs / wheelchair users) and the purchasing of derelict sites like Aida Bliss in Chester Green for future affordable housing development.

# Derby City Conservatives

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Promoted by Ruth Szarkowski on behalf of Derby City Conservatives all of.

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