

CONSERVATIVES WORKING FOR DERBYSHIRE

The Conservative Manifesto for the
Derbyshire County Council elections on
4 May 2017



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A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP LEADER

Dear Resident

You can trust Derbyshire Conservatives to deliver the services you and your family need. And we'll do it while providing exceptional value for money.

This Conservative Manifesto puts you firmly at the centre of Derbyshire County Council. Our pledges aim to return the council to doing what is important to you - improving life for local people.

We promise to invest in your priorities by saving and cutting back on the services you don't need. And we will continue our excellent track record of cutting out waste wherever we see it.

We will re-establish partnership working so together we can do what is best for Derbyshire. And we will return the council to one that is open and honest, welcoming challenge, scrutiny and debate.

Unlike Labour, we will not spend your council tax on jobs for the boys. We won't give ourselves pay rises or spend hundreds of thousands refurbishing our offices. And we won't waste huge sums on highly paid managers, unnecessary legal battles or an innovation unit that doesn't innovate.

Derbyshire's Labour has got its priorities wrong. It has spent your hard-earned cash on golden handshakes and expensive consultants while cutting care for older people, community transport and services for disabled children.

You need a council that works for you. That puts you and your family first. That is efficient and effective. Above all - a Conservative Council that improves life for local people.

Derbyshire can't afford another four years of Labour. Vote Conservative.

Barry Lewis



Cllr Barry Lewis

CLLR BARRY LEWIS
CONSERVATIVE GROUP LEADER, DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OUR PROMISE TO YOU



Derbyshire Conservatives will:

Cut Labour's waste

We will stop Labour's excessive and expensive use of consultants and interim management, their golden handshakes, legal challenges and innovation unit.

End Labour's jobs for the comrades

We will reverse Labour's 12% Cabinet member pay increase and the number of deputy roles it created to pay councillors extra cash.

Reverse Labour's cuts

We will make better use of underspends and the £233m they have in reserves to protect and undo Labour's damage to essential services.

Give power to the people

We will restore Labour's cuts to openness, honesty, scrutiny and accountability. We will set up community value-for-money boards made up of business and community leaders to review council contracts and decisions.

Put people first

Labour turned its back on partnership working, so we will rebuild relationships between councils, the business, community and voluntary sectors to deliver what is best for Derbyshire.

Work efficiently and effectively

We will return Derbyshire to its former status as a top-performing council by delivering high quality, value for money services.

WHAT DERBYSHIRE CONSERVATIVES WILL DO: OUR PLEDGES TO YOU

If you elect the Conservatives to run Derbyshire County Council for the next four years we will:

- Restart our innovative £30m **Care Programme** to provide new modern care homes for the county's older people - scrapped by Labour in 2013.
- Invest £10m to **Unblock Hospital Beds** and help older people return home.
- Tackle the appalling state of our roads and reverse Labour's cuts to **Road Maintenance**.
- Reverse Labour's cuts to **Community Transport** to help support vulnerable people in isolated rural and former mining communities and continue to **subsidise bus routes**.
- Create 1000 new **Apprenticeships and Work Experience Placements** to give Derbyshire's young people a step on life's ladder and **Second Chance Apprenticeships** to capture the knowledge and skills of older workers.
- Protect libraries from Labour's cuts and closure threats, recognising the important role our **Library Service** has in our communities.
- Provide 750 **Youth Activity Grants** and 750 **Derbyshire Sport and Community Action Grants** for local voluntary organisations and clubs to recognise their valuable role in supporting communities and healthy lifestyles.
- Develop a **Derbyshire Carers Support** scheme to provide 5000 half day breaks to help relieve the workload and stress when people are full time voluntary carers.
- Offer 500 grants to support **Community Safety Projects, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes** and **Anti-fraud Initiatives** to improve local networks, safety on our streets and in our homes.
- Carry out 5000 **Home Health, Safety and Welfare Checks** for the increasing number of vulnerable Over 80s in our communities.
- Ensure Derbyshire gets full **Broadband** coverage, even in rural areas because we recognise rural businesses rely on good broadband services.

IMPROVE SOCIAL CARE

“We will restart our innovative Care Programme to provide new modern care homes for the county’s older people”



We will restart our innovative £30m Care Programme to provide new modern care homes for the county's older people - scrapped by Labour in 2013.

Derbyshire Conservatives implemented a self financing building programme that would have provided new homes for older people across the county. We agreed to invest £30m in partnership with housing associations and the private sector. Savings on the running costs of former old people's homes would have paid the debt charges on our £30m contribution.

We promised not to close an existing old people's home until a new one was available for residents. Opposed by Labour, Oakland Village in Swadlincote and Meadow View in Darley Dale are examples of our 'state of the art' provision.

Labour - with their trade union paymasters - scrapped the programme in favour of keeping open our outdated range of homes.

“We will invest in unblocking hospital beds to help people return home”



We will invest £10m to Unblock Hospital Beds and help older people return home.

Derbyshire Conservatives will take the lead in creating a taskforce to find an urgent, interim solution for Derbyshire people. We will work with local partners – the NHS/ East Midlands Ambulance/Voluntary Sector/Private Sector – using a one-off £10m Emergency Fund to find the most effective patient pathways.

This will help to unblock hospital beds as fast as possible and ensure that people can return to their homes and communities where they can have the support of friends and family.

“We will develop a Carers Support Scheme to provide voluntary carers with a much needed break”

We will develop a Derbyshire Carers Support Scheme to provide 5000 half day breaks to help relieve the workload and stress when people are full time voluntary carers.

Derbyshire Conservatives understand the workload and stress that comes with being a carer. More and more people are becoming fulltime carers and often there is little respite to giving your loved one 24/7 attention.

We will create a Derbyshire Carers Support Scheme to help relieve the workload and stress of being a carer. We will fund 5000 half day breaks for carers to give them a much needed break while paying someone to look after their friend or relative.

“We will carry out 5000 Home Safety & Welfare checks to support the Over 80s in our communities”

We will carry out 5000 Home Health, Safety & Welfare Checks for the increasing number of vulnerable Over 80s in our communities.

Derbyshire Conservatives know that as the county's population gets older there will be more and more people needing support in their own homes.

Many different organisations provide services in people's homes – home helps, meals on wheels, health visitors, doctors, handyman service, fire safety officers. We believe far more could be done to coordinate this activity making better use of resources and keeping a better eye on the welfare of our old and vulnerable residents.

We will fund 5000 Home Health, Safety and Welfare checks to try to make sure that people live in a healthy and safe environment.

REPAIR ROADS

“We will tackle the appalling state of our roads and reverse Labour’s cuts to Road Maintenance”



We will tackle the appalling state of our roads and reverse Labour’s cuts to Road Maintenance.

Derbyshire Conservatives prioritised road maintenance and introduced the successful ‘You report it. We’ll sort it’ pothole busting scheme.

Labour have slashed Derbyshire's basic road maintenance budget by almost £6 million and let our roads get into an appalling state. We know that poor roads can damage cars, create more congestion and pollution, hinder local businesses and create trips and falls on our footpaths.

We will put more money into road maintenance to help offset Labour’s cuts.

PROTECT BUSES & COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

“We will reinstate Community Transport and protect subsidised bus routes”



We will reverse Labour’s cuts to Community Transport to help support vulnerable people in isolated rural and former mining communities and continue to subsidise bus routes.

Derbyshire Conservatives will scrap Labour’s so called Innovations Unit that is ineffective and unnecessary, and spend the £500,000 a year on extra support for Community Transport and subsidised transport.

We know that Derbyshire Community Transport Schemes and subsidised bus routes provide a vital service for vulnerable and isolated people, particularly in the county’s rural and former mining areas.

We will reverse Labour's cuts and restore important access to health and social care, shopping and social activities.

SUPPORT LIBRARIES & SERVICES

“We will protect libraries from Labour’s cuts and closure threats as we recognise the important role our library service has in our communities”



We recognise the important role our Library Service has in our communities, so we will protect libraries from Labour’s cuts and closure threats.

Derbyshire Conservatives recognise the important role of our libraries in local communities. They are often the hub for community activities, a valuable source of information, an education resource for young people and a lifeline for the elderly and vulnerable.

When councils across the country were closing libraries we were trying to open new ones like the new Ashbourne Library. We made them a priority but Labour have cut opening hours and mobile routes and are considering closing some libraries.

CHAMPIONING COMMUNITIES

“We will provide 1500 youth activity and sports grants to support local voluntary organisations and clubs”



We will provide 750 Youth Activity Grants and 750 Derbyshire Sport and Community Action Grants for local voluntary organisations and clubs.

Derbyshire Conservatives know that young people prosper if there are interesting, educational and fun things to do that keep them off the streets.

Far more can be done for young people by encouraging, supporting and expanding the many voluntary sector activities that take place across the county.

Our communities are better places to live thanks to all the local sports clubs, pensioners' keep fit classes, mother and toddler groups to name a few. Derbyshire Conservatives want to see them thrive.

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

“We will provide grants to support Community Safety Projects to make people feel safer on our streets and in our homes”



We will offer 500 grants to support Community Safety Projects, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and Anti-fraud Initiatives, to improve local networks, safety on our streets and in our homes.

Derbyshire Conservatives recognise the strength of local volunteer action in expanding local community safety projects, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and raising awareness of scams and online fraud.

Labour have cut the budget for community safety activities and abandoned much of the partnership working with the Police.

We will provide grants for 500 new community safety, Neighbourhood Watch and anti-fraud schemes to help set them up, recruit volunteers and promote them locally.

INVEST IN EMPLOYMENT & UNLOCK GROWTH

“We will create 1000 new Apprenticeships, Work Experience Placements and Second Chance Apprenticeships to inspire new careers and promote local growth”



We will create 1000 new Apprenticeships and Work Experience Placements to give Derbyshire’s young people a step up on life’s ladder, and Second Chance Apprenticeships to capture the knowledge and skills of older workers.

Derbyshire Conservatives will implement a school leaver and graduate recruitment programme and encourage other employers in the county to follow our example.

Having a job is an essential ingredient of most people’s lives. Many school leavers, graduates and older people who have been made redundant find it difficult to get into, or back into gainful employment.

We will work with our suppliers and contractors to encourage them to create new apprenticeships for every £1m we spend with them.

FACTS ABOUT DERBYSHIRE LABOUR



- **LABOUR** gave their councillors an immediate 12% pay rise when they got elected - we will reverse it.
- **LABOUR** is planning to stash an extra £7 million in reserves, adding to the £233 million they are already sitting on, while cutting essential children's services and adult care - blaming the Government for the cuts.
- **LABOUR** scrapped our award winning building programme that would have guaranteed quality accommodation and support for all our old and vulnerable people - we will work to reinstate it.
- **LABOUR** let our roads go to pot-holes by cutting almost £6 million from the road maintenance budget.
- **LABOUR** squandered £millions on golden handshakes and redundancies reorganising the council's management structures - which wasn't needed.
- **LABOUR** created the so called Innovations Unit that so far has wasted over £1 million innovating nothing - we will scrap it and use the money to support community transport.
- **LABOUR** spent hundreds of thousands reorganising their plush office accommodation at County Hall - when we won the previous election we just moved into their old offices.
- **LABOUR** wasted tens of thousands in legal fights when they should have been concentrating on the council's real job of supporting local people.
- **LABOUR** spent hundreds of thousands on expensive external consultants and interim managers - we will stop this and better use the council's skills and resources to look after itself.
- **LABOUR** spent £6 million on a bloated publicity department to deliver their Labour propaganda - we will slash it by 50% and use the money to support local services.
- **LABOUR** wasted your money seeking expensive external legal advice to try to justify all their dodgy ideas and practices - we will end this practice and use the money to support your services.
- **LABOUR** abandoned partnership working with the council's public and private sector partners, losing good-will and joint working to tackle community problems - we will rebuild the good relations the council was famous for.
- **LABOUR's** poor leadership has destroyed staff morale, isolated the council from its partners and caused a rift between Chesterfield and the authority.

DERBYSHIRE LABOUR has done all this while making major cuts to road maintenance, libraries, community transport, services for old people, services for children, countryside services and even school crossing patrols.

DERBYSHIRE CONSERVATIVES will stop the waste and prioritise your services.