

# *Working For* **DERBYSHIRE**



The Conservative  
commitment to you, your  
family and to Derbyshire

## **OUR PLAN FOR DERBYSHIRE'S FUTURE**

The **Conservative Manifesto** for the  
Derbyshire County Council elections 2021



## *Dear Residents*

We are proud to have served you these last four years and we would welcome the privilege of serving you for another four years. We've achieved so much in that short period of time but we have more to do after so many years of Labour mismanagement and tired policies that failed Derbyshire residents.

For starters, we want to build upon the Government's ambitious agenda to level up the country and recognise the opportunities, working with them, to do the same for Derbyshire. Be assured – we will ensure this great county shares in the investment over the coming years. And we'll be relentless in delivering clean growth and supporting businesses and jobs locally.

And when it comes to supporting Derbyshire, following the global Coronavirus pandemic we will pull every sinew to ensure our economy and society bounces back to full strength. Part of that is to ensure we operate as efficiently as possible and be agile enough to make the most of every opportunity. We want to deliver ambitious road schemes such as the Ashbourne Bypass, work to solve the traffic issues on the A61, protect our unique cultural heritage assets, like Swarkestone Causeway in South Derbyshire, which is under tremendous pressure from heavy traffic and HGVs and requires a bypass solution.

We want to maintain our hard-won position as one of the best performing councils for road repairs and maintenance – indeed we want to go further. Over the next 3 years we will spend a record breaking £120million to carry out an unprecedented repairs and maintenance programme, the likes of which Derbyshire has never seen before. We will build upon the almost 250,000 potholes fixed during our last administration, an improvement in performance over the previous Labour administration of a huge 212%!

During the pandemic, cycling and walking has clearly grown in popularity, so we want to invest more in our greenways and make cycling safer and more enjoyable. We also want to encourage more people onto bicycles by subsidising eBikes for some Derbyshire residents. And we'll continue to support subsidised bus route across the County.

Climate Change is the critical issue of our age and we have been one of the most ambitious councils in the country when it comes to decarbonising our operations and economy. But we recognise that to do this we must all share in the economic gains and it must make sound business sense, and this is a golden thread throughout this manifesto.

We have a unique opportunity to deliver the benefits of readily available natural renewable resources and clean energy directly to our residents and to keep the wealth it creates within the local economy. It is a grand ambition indeed, to shift the energy market to being a crucial part of the local economy. By doing so we can potentially generate savings for residents and help communities, by incentivising them, to become carbon neutral quicker.

This is just one way we are thinking outside of the box and delivering for residents.

On top of all that, we will continue to ensure any Derbyshire residents who need our help get it and that it is the best help and support we can provide to the young, the elderly and the vulnerable. We are committed to ensuring elderly care in Derbyshire is of the highest quality and that there is access to excellent care facilities in all parts of the County.

We will work tirelessly to deliver the best educational opportunities for young people, including by ensuring every child that needs a device for education, has one. And we're going further, by recognising that many young people, whatever their background, gender or race do not, for a variety of reasons, have access to the opportunities of some of their peers and we're committed to trying to solve that and have committed £1million to do that. We will also ensure our focus on keeping Derbyshire's most vulnerable young people protected and invest in initiatives to address mental health.

There is so much more, and I hope you will take a little time to read this Manifesto, which outlines our ambitious and fresh pledges for Derbyshire for the next four years and beyond. It's costed, it's ambitious and we believe it will deliver a new Greener, Cleaner and Brighter future for our residents. We believe in fairness and equality and have put this at the heart of our manifesto, which I commend to you.

Best wishes

*Cllr Barry Lewis*

Leader of Derbyshire County Council

*It has been a huge pleasure to serve the residents of Derbyshire these past four years and I'm extremely proud of what we've achieved as an administration. People face a clear choice on 6th May. They can vote for better roads, lower Council Tax and huge progress on climate change with the Conservatives. Or swingeing cuts to services and higher Council Tax with the same old Labour Party.*

**Cllr. Barry Lewis**  
**Leader of Derbyshire County Council**



# Our pledges to you:

-  **To be ambitious for Derbyshire and our residents**
-  **To be cleaner and greener & promote clean economic growth**
-  **To work hard for you and listen to you**
-  **To deliver top quality services and excellent value for money**
-  **To invest in and deliver excellent infrastructure for Derbyshire residents**



# Our Track Record of Reforming & Modernising Derbyshire County Council Services

**The Conservatives have modernised and reformed Council services making them more efficient and effective, but we have more to do.**

For decades Labour's inefficiency cost Derbyshire council taxpayers millions of pounds which could

have been spent on frontline services rather than botched redundancies and golden handshakes.

**We are asking you for four more years to create a modern, fair, and even more effective County Council.**

## Here are just some of the things we've achieved since 2017:

### Conservatives have reversed Labour's ideological cuts to key services:



- Over the last 4 years and we have worked to rebuild critical services including putting back **£30m into vital Children's Services**, cut to the bone by Labour.
- We also reinstated **£3.2million into public transport**, which the previous Labour administration had removed in its entirety.
- Derbyshire Conservatives also **halted Labour's plans to close three local household waste recycling centres**, one of most important and well-used Council services.
- We invested a further **£6million into highway maintenance after Labour's appalling cuts** led to a huge backlog of potholes.

### We modernised how the Council worked:

- Our **Enterprising Council** approach has scrutinised every area of Council business to give **best value and ensure high quality, high performing services for our residents.**
- We have reformed the Council's procurement to **save millions every year** by more efficient and streamlined purchasing.
- We have started construction on a **new £15million 40 bed care home** in Ilkeston. Reaffirming our commitment that no care home will close without replacement provision reflecting modern care needs.



- Residents have seen the **lowest council tax rises** for many years, saving a Band-B property £57 per year and for a Band-D property saving £75.41
- We **ensured the County's largest town Chesterfield remained part of Derbyshire** despite its Labour controlled Borough Council's madcap plans to become part of Sheffield City Region.

# Our Track Record of Reforming & Modernising Derbyshire County Council Services

We also ensured that millions of pounds of business rates paid by Derbyshire-based businesses at Markham Vale that Labour allowed to go to Sheffield have been returned to the County and are **invested for the benefit of Derbyshire residents**.

In 2017 we delivered on a key pledge and **reduced the cost of politics by 12%** by reversing the massive pay-hike Labour Councillors voted for themselves.

We **made further savings of £300,000 per year by streamlining senior management roles** delivering a modern management structure led by the Leader and Cabinet.



From the moment we took power we **reversed Labour's ludicrous plan to implement on-street parking charges** and **halted Labour's tip charges**.

In four years we **filled nearly 250,000 potholes - a huge 212% more than Labour** did in the same time.

In August 2019, during the **Whaley Bridge and Toddbrook Dam incident** we swung into action **to provide residents and businesses with support grants** to help the local community recover. We **repeated** this for flood affected

residents and businesses **in later 2019, early 2020 and January 2021**. Our grant schemes became the model which the government would use in November 2019 to support flooded communities in other parts of the UK.

**Invested £15million in Covid-19 recovery for Derbyshire** and delivered a recovery strategy that became the model for other local authorities to follow.

We never let the grass grow under our feet and we are as passionate and ambitious now about delivering for Derbyshire residents as we were on the first day we took control in 2017. **We hope you will elect the Conservatives to run Derbyshire County Council for the next four years and the following pages sets out our vision for a better Derbyshire.**





# Aspiring for Derbyshire Young People: Our Bright Future

## We will:

- Continue to **provide school crossing patrols** where they are most needed.
- Pledge **devices for Derbyshire children** to ensure every child in the County has access to an electronic device for learning.
- Provide a further **£375,000 Youth Activity Grants pot** for local voluntary organisations and clubs, recognising their valuable role in supporting healthy lifestyles for young people.
- Create an additional **1000 new Apprenticeships and Work Experience Placements** to give Derbyshire's young people a step on life's ladder.



■ We recognise the growing issue of **young people's mental ill health** and pledge to create a pilot **£300,000 fund to develop preventative schemes with partners** in schools the voluntary, community and independent sectors and health colleagues.

■ Support for the **campaign for a Sixth Form in the Bolsover District** to raise aspirations and ensure continuing education is an option for all.

■ Continue to **spend several million pounds each year to build new schools, and expand, refurbish and rebuild existing ones**, so that our children and young people get the best possible start in life by learning in fantastic, modern school environments.

■ Continue to **drive improvements we've already made in social care**, as recognised by Ofsted in July 2019, to keep the County's most vulnerable children safe.

■ Create a **Levelling-Up Fund for Young People of £1million** to ensure disadvantaged young people, whatever their background, race or gender have the best educational and life-chance opportunities to excel and thrive alongside their more fortunate peers. We want to strive to create **equality of opportunity for young people where no-one is left behind** and find innovative and creative ways to ensure they are supported and encouraged to succeed despite their circumstances.



# Supporting Older and Vulnerable People & Staying Healthy: Providing the Best Care & Support We Can

## We will:



■ Build on our **innovative £30m Care Programme** to provide new modern care homes and care at home packages for the county's older people – to replace Labour's legacy of crumbling care homes.

■ Invest a further **£5m to Unblock Hospital Beds** and help older people to return to their own homes.

■ Carry out a further **5000 Home Health, Safety and Welfare Checks** for the increasing number of vulnerable Over 80s in our communities.



■ Continue the Derbyshire Carers Support scheme to provide **5000 half day breaks** to help relieve the workload and stress when people are full time voluntary carers.

■ Develop and fund a **£500,000 support and respite scheme for Young Carers** in Derbyshire.

■ A further **£375,000 Derbyshire Sport and Community Action Grants pot** for local voluntary organisations and clubs, recognising their valuable role in supporting healthy lifestyles for Derbyshire residents.



# Investing in a Cleaner, Greener, More Vibrant Economy

## We will:

- Reaffirm the commitments made in our 2019 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Manifesto to be **Net Zero as an authority by 2032**, or sooner.
- Develop with the Government and other organisations like the Peak District National Park **Innovative Sustainable Transport systems to reduce traffic** within the National Park and our countryside.
- Develop a **£100 million capital scheme to improve Derbyshire's environment** investing in the Green economy, promoting cleaner air schemes in our towns and investing in cycling and walking greenways in the County.
- Invest in a **Green Revolution for Derbyshire**, create Community Green Energy Entrepreneurs, to develop green and cheaper, cleaner energy for residents and businesses and create local jobs and skills.
- Expand our **Green Entrepreneur Grant Scheme** and **Community Energy Grants** to provide **£10million of funding to help businesses and communities** to become greener.
- Facilitate the planting of up to **1,000,000 new trees in Derbyshire by 2030**, including by providing planting grant schemes.
- Commit to **flood alleviation schemes** in particular working with communities to find some real meaningful solutions to those areas regularly affected.
- Implementing **20mph zone trials in two towns in Derbyshire** to promote clean air and cycling, **making them "Green Towns."**



- Continue to invest in electric vehicle (EV) charging point infrastructure in Derbyshire with partners in the public and private sector to deliver an **ambitious target of 1000 EV charging points by the end of 2025**.
- Work with partners in the public and private sectors to **deliver 2 hydrogen fuel stations** in Derbyshire and **30 hydrogen powered buses and refuse collection vehicles by 2025**.
- Use our **abundant natural capital**, such as our extensive countryside, moors and woodlands to help **deliver carbon reduction measures** and invest in Derbyshire.
- Explore ways **to use our abundant rivers** in the new Green Industrial Revolution to generate power for our communities and industries.
- Work with the Government and Peak District National Park Authority on the **restoration of the peat moors**.



# Creating Jobs and Skills: a Vibrant Economy and Quality Jobs

## We will:



■ Continue to work to ensure Derbyshire gets **full Broadband coverage**, even in rural areas because we recognise rural residents and businesses rely on good broadband services.

■ Continue to **support small businesses** affected by the pandemic to survive and recover with a support package worth **£200,000**.

■ Encourage entrepreneurship in the Derbyshire economy, through a **£10million business start-up support grants** and package with ongoing help and guidance.

■ Encourage increased **inward investment** to provide better paid and higher quality jobs for residents.

■ Collaborate with partners to **deliver critical economic growth in Bolsover** and **work to deliver a Shirebrook Link road**.



# Record Breaking Investment in our Roads, Cleaner Air, Road Safety & Public Transport

## We will:



Invest more than **£120million on Road Maintenance** and tackling potholes over the next 3 years and maintain our ranking as one of the best performing Highway Authorities in Britain.

In year one we will deliver 83 resurfacing schemes totalling 1million Square meters of resurfacing.

Introduce **speed reduction schemes and clean air zones in our towns and villages** where local people support it. Including implementing **20mph zone trials in two towns** in Derbyshire to promote clean air and cycling, making them **“Green Towns.”**

- We commit to working with residents and partners to **improve road safety** throughout Derbyshire
- **Deliver Free Companion Bus Passes** for disabled public transport pass holders.
- Deliver our promise to **complete the Ashbourne Bypass**.
- Work with **Keep Britain Tidy and the Campaign for Protection of Rural England** to educate countryside visitors and schools about the Countryside Code and **keeping our beautiful county tidy**.
- Make Derbyshire the **centre of excellence in future fuels** for transport, industry and domestic energy.
- Prioritise **completing key cycling routes in Derbyshire such as the White Peak Loop** and support the delivery of our unique Key Cycle Network Strategy to **deliver the country’s most ambitious off-road cycle network for work and recreation**.
- Work with walking groups throughout Derbyshire to **improve access and the quality of our thousands of miles of footpaths**.
- Create an **initial £250,000 Electric Bicycle subsidy scheme** to make eBikes accessible and encourage greener ways of getting about in Derbyshire.
- Continue to **develop practical solutions for the congestion afflicting the A61 south of Chesterfield**, to reduce congestion, improve traffic flows and journey times for local residents.
- We will continue to **work with Highways England and the Government to deliver the Mottram Bypass and Glossop Spur** and **lobby for the upgrade of the Hope Valley Line**. And work with partners to mitigate the impacts.
- We will continue to **support subsidised bus routes** across the County, as we have since 2017.





# Supporting our Communities, Our Libraries & Cultural Economy and Protecting our Heritage

## 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.

■ We pledge **no libraries will close on our watch.**

■ Continue to **support arts, culture and heritage facilities, groups and organisations** in Derbyshire, which contribute to our local economies, to tourism and by enriching resident's lives, by creating a **£1million cultural recovery grant scheme.**

■ **Revive and reimagine market town High Streets**, providing support for increased footfall and improved trading conditions and encouraging a new High Street Economy.

■ Commit to working to **find a bypass solution** to the long-suffering and unique nationally important medieval **Grade I Listed Swarkestone Causeway in South Derbyshire.**

■ Continue the work to deliver a sustainable **£35m heritage led regeneration plan for Elvaston Castle** and grounds to boost tourism and benefit the local community and economy and create local jobs.

■ Work with partners and developers to **secure the heritage led regeneration of Belper's important Grade I North Mill and Grade 2 East Mill** at the heart of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, to facilitate local tourism, retail and residential opportunities that will **create local jobs and boost the local economy.**



■ **Conserve and promote Derbyshire's unique heritage** to bring greater economic and community benefits to Derbyshire residents, including highlighting our key globally important assets such as the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, the only one in the East Midlands.



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# Our Plan for Derbyshire

- ✔ **Aspiring for Derbyshire Young People as our bright future**
- ✔ **Providing the best care and support we can for our vulnerable and older residents**
- ✔ **Investing in a cleaner, greener, more vibrant economy**
- ✔ **Creating jobs and boosting skills**
- ✔ **Delivering record breaking investment in our roads, cleaner air, road safety and public transport**
- ✔ **Supporting our communities, our libraries and our cultural economy and protecting our heritage**

## YOUR CHOICE AT THIS ELECTION

### A Conservative-run Council

- ✔ **Improving our roads** - a huge £120million investment to help improve the state of our roads
- ✔ **Keeping Council Tax low** - so you can keep more of your hard earned money in your pocket
- ✔ **Protecting vital services** - like school crossing patrols, libraries and recycling centres
- ✔ **Net-zero by 2032 or sooner** - helping to tackle climate change

OR

### Same. Old. Labour.

- ✔ **No plan or commitment to improve our roads**
- ✔ **Raised council tax by the maximum amount possible in each of the years they were last in power**
- ✔ **Cut essential services like road maintenance, public transport, and children's services**
- ✔ **No action or proposals to tackle climate change**

## WHICH WILL YOU VOTE FOR?