

Liberal
Democrats



DEMAND BETTER

**CHANGE
DERBY'S
FUTURE**

Derby City Council 2019 Manifesto



Making the best Derby for now and the future

We love Derby. It's our home, just like it is for around 250,000 people, and there's so many reasons to love living and working here. But that doesn't mean we think Derby's perfect. Far from it.

All year round, local Liberal Democrats talk to local people and local businesses across Derby. We listen to people's problems, their hopes and dreams. And we work to make things better for people in Derby.

Sometimes that's in the small things. The person who needs help getting their housing association to repair their home, the parent who's having a problem with their child's school, the community that's getting run down because the local area isn't being properly maintained. When we can help people with these things, the results can make an immediate difference to people's lives.

But Derby needs a bigger vision too. Not just the little details, but the big plans that'll make a difference today, next year, in 20 years time. How to realise the potential of Derby and turn our city into something even better for the next generation.

No matter how many of us there are, we can't see everything by ourselves. So we've talked with people from across Derby and asked them what they'd like to see done. To think and dream big.

This vision for Derby is the product of ideas from across Derby - and we're always listening out for new ideas. Some of this the Council can do, and if you elect Liberal Democrats to run Derby City Council we'll be working to put it into place, whether we can do them immediately or whether they'll take a bit longer. But some of our plans require changes at national level. We're not just campaigning for a better Council for Derby but better leadership for our whole country that listens to local communities and can make the most of Derby and other communities nationwide.

If you like the ideas we're offering - we need your help to turn them into reality. Share them with your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours. Come and help us talk to people across Derby to spread the news and to get their ideas too. And vote for us so we can have the chance to put these ideas into practice for you and build the Derby we're offering.

Together, we can make Derby the best city in Britain for us all. Join us to make it happen.



Contents

Making the best Derby for now and the future	2
Our Pledges To You	4
A Record of Action	5
Homes For All.....	6
Educating for Life	8
Fair Treatment for Special Educational Needs.....	10
Fitter and Happier.....	11
Working and Succeeding Together	12
Communities To Be Proud Of	13
Making The Most Of What Derby Offers.....	14
Sport and Leisure For All.....	16
A Cleaner, Greener Derby for Everyone	17
Caring For Those Who Need Our Help	19
A City Accessible To All.....	20
Transport We Can All Rely On	21
A Better Deal for Derby	23
A Council That Listens.....	24



Our Pledges To You

- Develop plans to make Derby a leader in action to address the climate emergency
- Prioritise building more good affordable homes with local facilities for Derby
- Support Derby schools to deliver the best education for all pupils and let teachers focus on teaching and supporting pupils not ticking boxes
- Work with families of SEN children to provide fair, effective support and early identification of needs
- Provide an improved social care service in partnership with the local NHS
- Make the city council serve and stay accountable to the people by changing to the committee system and retaining the present system of electing by thirds rather than only once every four years
- Work with Derby businesses to help them grow and provide great jobs and services for our community
- Make Street Pride services more efficient and effective, and deal with fly-tipping to improve our communities
- Consult with local groups to develop a locally-driven vision that can deliver the entertainment, sports and leisure facilities people actually want and will use
- Ensure Derby retains successful libraries across the city
- Work with and support charities and groups that help the homeless
- Provide fair and effective funding for the whole of Derby, investing money more equally across Derby and on what local residents say they want - not just pet projects in favoured areas



A Record of Action

Derby Liberal Democrats can achieve the most for Derby by being elected to lead Derby City Council. And when Liberal Democrats were leading Derby City Council, we achieved a lot for Derby.

Liberal Democrats secured the Velodrome as a top-class facility for Derby, supporting facilities for the whole city to use. We completed the inner ring road and made sure it had good walking and cycling facilities. We delivered the new bus station to provide a comfortable, modern facility for bus users. We increased recycling levels far above what Labour let them fall to, saving the council money and helping the environment. We increased provision of residential accommodation for severely autistic children, stopping them having to be sent miles away from family in Derby and saving the council money. We built the acclaimed skate park in Bass' Recreation ground, consulting with young people to give what they actually wanted. We rebuilt the community swimming pool by Gayton School in Littleover. We refurbished the Council House, saving the Council large sums of money in maintenance and renting offices elsewhere.

Every Liberal Democrat councillor elected helps achieve more for Derby. Even without leading the Council, Liberal Democrat councillors have been able to achieve much. We've fought for local residents and got new paths. Linking communities, and lower speed limits on residential roads that help make our communities better to live in. We've supported campaigners the council was ignoring, from Castle Nursery School parents to children with special educational needs being let down.

And local Liberal Democrat teams don't just turn up once a year to ask for your vote. We stay in touch with regular newsletters, surveys and surgeries, and our councillors participate in Neighbourhood Forums.

Every vote for a Liberal Democrat councillor gives us more opportunities to deliver these changes to make Derby a better city to live and work in. To be your representatives to the Council, not the Council's representatives to you. To work harder, to listen more, to work with you to make Derby the best it can be.



Homes For All

For Derby to be a successful city, it has to be a place where we actually want to live, and not just the place where we happen to live. And that means we need decent, comfortable and affordable homes that people can build their lives in. But for far too long, across the whole country, this simply hasn't happened. House prices have risen out of all recognition making owning your own home an impossible dream for many. Social housing has become less and less available. Rough sleeping is unacceptably high. And the council's basic services haven't always kept up with needs across the city.

And that's not all. Neighbouring councils are continuing to authorise large developments right on the edge of Derby without services, knowing that Derby will have to provide.

People working hard in Derby shouldn't be having to depend on temporary accommodation and even homeless shelters - but some are. And research shows that children forced to keep moving between short-term homes do worse in school and carry that disadvantage through their lives.

A decent home isn't just a roof over someone's head. It's an opportunity to get a job, for security and peace of mind. It's an opportunity to settle in a community. And it should be available to all households who need it.

We will –

- Use the council's planning powers to ensure new development matches local needs rather than just maximises developer profits, and which builds sustainable communities with good local facilities
- Prioritise building more good affordable homes for Derby
- Seek to increase the stock of available social housing citywide so that everyone can have a good home to live in
- Work with the private sector to bring long-term empty homes back into use, and where this fails, use 'Empty Dwelling Management Order' powers to acquire such house and bring them back into use
- Campaign for a change in the law to allow Councils to set their own discount levels for Right to Buy, for categories of council houses to exclude from sale and for proceeds to be kept locally and reinvested in supply
- Follow the example of Lib Dem councils elsewhere by building new social housing in a way that ensures it stays available as social housing and can't be taken out
- Promote home energy efficiency and improved insulation to make homes more comfortable, cheaper to run and help combat climate change
- Invest in Derby's social housing with measures such as increased insulation to reduce energy bills and give tenants more say in their communal areas.
- Publish information from Derby Homes improvement schemes to help homeowners to make the same improvements to their homes.
- Allow local home owners to buy in to Derby Homes improvement schemes where possible
- Work with Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service to make sure elderly & vulnerable people get help to reduce the risk of fires in their homes.



- Campaign for domestic sprinklers to be included in the Building Regulations and for retrofitting in high-risk buildings.
- Facilitate links between people with spare rooms they wish to let out to lodgers and those needing somewhere to stay
- Seek to extend recycling to all areas of the city that do not currently have doorstep recycling services
- Expand the range of materials the Council will accept for recycling
- Create and publicise local 'garden waste days' where residents with green waste too big for the bin can have it shredded for reuse
- Investigate developing an additional household waste site on the west of the City to stop residents having to make long cross-city journeys with their waste
- Work with Severn Trent Water to explore better ways of dealing with food waste using their anaerobic digester facilities to minimise the amount that has to go to landfill
- Seek to work with Derbyshire's Vital Earth to develop efficient composting of green waste from Derby and make good use of the resulting waste heat



Educating for Life

Education is crucial for everyone to live the best lives they can. Liberal Democrats want a Derby where no-one is enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity, and all can enjoy living in a free, fair and open society that will allow them to be their best selves. Without good education, available to all throughout their lives, this can't be achieved and people won't be able to enjoy their lives to the fullest. If we waste people's talents, we all miss out on what they could offer.

Education shouldn't just be for children and young people. With work changing and people having more careers over their working lives than before, education and training opportunities need to be available throughout life.

But right now, Derby's schools are too often not doing well enough for their students or society. Exam results are below where they should be. Staff and pupils are experiencing high levels of stress. And the mess Labour left behind with the long-running dispute with Teaching Assistants is still having to be dealt with.

To build the education system Derby deserves needs changes both locally and nationally. No party could change everything we want from the Council, but as Liberal Democrats we're fighting to serve the people of Derby at all levels and are committed to campaigning for the important changes Derby needs, wherever they need to be made.

We will -

- Support Derby schools to deliver the best education for all pupils and let teachers focus on teaching and supporting pupils not ticking boxes
- Promote the reduction of class sizes or increase teacher : pupil ratios as appropriate in schools with the most disadvantaged children
- Campaign to scrap the government's 'per-pupil school funding cuts
- Conduct a review of demand levels for schooling and investigate the expansion of schools inside the democratic control of the Council, possibly by the building of new school campuses, where the evidence shows they are needed
- Seek to end the creation of new Free Schools that can presently be started without any assessment of local need and operate outside local democratic control
- Identify the best ways to reduce stress levels for teachers and pupils and increase support services to help those who are struggling
- Ensure that all teachers in Derby City Council schools are fully qualified or working towards Qualified Teacher status, and campaign to end the exemption that allows some state-funded schools to employ unqualified teachers
- Provide extra help for the recruitment and retention of teachers, especially for more deprived communities, to give children continuity of education
- Support every Derby school to achieve a rating as excellent by independent assessors
- Work to provide the option of free school meals for all primary age children, in line with expert research that indicates it improves learning for children
- Ensure schools offer meat-free school meal options on all days
- Seek to provide further support for the Royal Derby Deaf School and aim to make Derby the best place in the UK for deaf education, language and employment



- Support schools that have a record of high levels of pupil mobility and turnover and/or lower attendance levels to enable them to support their pupils' needs
- Improve provision and support for pupils newly arriving into the city
- Campaign to reduce inappropriate academic pressure in the early years of education and increase the use of a play-based learning model that can better suit younger children's needs
- Work with governors to improve our school buildings to provide well equipped, well maintained, energy efficient buildings where pupils and staff can focus on learning
- Support an improved Careers Advice service within secondary schools to allow pupils to make the best choices for their future
- Campaign to restore pay parity for teachers across Derby
- Increase the availability of adult education to support retraining and career changes
- Review council-supported work training and support providers to ensure they are offering a high-quality, value-for-money service
- Seek to increase investment in education at all levels specifically targeting vocational and technical skills to provide local businesses with the talent pool to help them grow
- Encourage schools to participate in Derby's 'youth mayors' and 'Pupil Council' schemes and support schools teaching pupils about democracy and citizenship to help create engaged, informed citizens
- Work to ensure sufficient educational challenge is available to allow gifted and talented higher achievers to reach their potential, including specialist provision for gifted autistic pupils
- Provide a simplified and transparent system for school support and challenge to help schools improve
- Support schools to tackle all forms of bullying
- End diverting of money disproportionately to schools in some areas while starving others of the resources they need to serve their pupils, and ensure that changes are properly analysed for impact before being imposed on schools
- Oppose the Conservative government's forced academisation of all schools that will give local people less control and divert resources away from schools towards managers and lawyers
- Work with the University to maximise the benefits of higher education to Derby and Derby residents



Fair Treatment for Special Educational Needs

Derby has a relatively high proportion of school-age children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). This brings its own challenges, and for many years our former Labour Council simply didn't meet them. Families had to take the Council to tribunals just to get appropriate education for their children. Too often all this did was store up problems for later. If a child's needs are met promptly, they can achieve much more than if they're left to drift for years without the support they need.

Labour's 6 years running Derby City Council left a legacy of chaos and mismanagement, failure to meet legal obligations and having to compensate families for the Council's failures. Things are improving but there is much rebuilding to do to ensure all children have the correct provision for their needs.

Liberal Democrats when running Derby City Council increased specialist provision for Special Educational Needs students, giving better services in Derby and saving the council money. Yet Labour failed to continue these plans, harming educational provision and increasing costs.

Special Educational Needs provision is now at capacity again and children are still being denied the services they need. This is unacceptable.

We will -

- Work with families of SEN children to provide fair, effective support and early identification of needs
- Seek to improve funding and support for SEN children, especially in mainstream settings
- Ensure that identification and support for SEN and disabilities takes place as early as possible to minimise disruption to a child's education
- Work to rectify Labour's backlog in producing Education and Health Care Plans as legally required for all SEN children and review existing EHCPs apparently created in a rush to ensure that they are adequate
- Ensure the full allocation of SEN funding is used for SEN provision and not diverted into other areas
- Improve access to speech and language therapy, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and other health care services to remove barriers to education
- Seek to increase SEN specialist provision following the successful Independent schools model
- Ensure all changes to local policy that impact on SEN children are reviewed to ensure they don't disadvantage them
- Reverse the former Labour council's closure of specialist SEN places that are already oversubscribed and increase SEN provision to improve services and meet legal requirements, funded by helping children in Derby, rather than expensively sending them out of area.
- Ensure that all relevant Council officers are properly trained in SEN so they can best serve pupils
- Seek to establish a new culture in local SEN provision and re-establish the trust of families by creating a new vision for SEN provision in Derby
- Strengthen links between special and enhanced resource schools and mainstream schools to support staff training and development



Fitter and Happier

At all stages of our lives, we depend on good health services. And not just our GPs and local hospitals, but 'public health' programmes to help keep people healthy and out of hospitals, and social care services for those who need help in their day-to-day lives.

With an ageing population and squeezes to funding from central government, these become ever more important. Demand for social care is constantly rising as the retired population increases. Good public health programmes can keep people fitter and more active for longer, stopping them needing to go into hospital as early or as often.

And by managing social care effectively, pressures on the NHS can be further reduced by minimising 'bed blocking' where patients have to stay in hospital after their treatment is finished because there isn't appropriate social care provision available.

We will -

- Manage council care facilities to support the NHS with discharge of patients & prevent 'bed blocking'
- Work to co-ordinate council social care provision with the local NHS to provide a more effective service for residents
- Work with local GPs to make them more accessible, encouraging phone and Skype appointments where practical to improve patient services
- Where research shows it is effective, we will campaign to encourage self-referral of patient for some specialities such as physiotherapy to reduce GP workloads
- Campaign for changes to the rules on prescription charge exemptions to ensure they are fair to all patients, including those with long-term conditions and disabilities
- Institute a 'Fitness Through Fun' programme to provide exercise and leisure activities for all abilities and ages, encouraging better health and better community links
- Prioritise the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in partnership with local schools to ensure that children and teenagers experiencing stress and other mental health problems can get the expert support they need and minimise the disruption to their lives



Working and Succeeding Together

Derby can be rightly proud of its long industrial history. Today that is maintained not just by large employers such as Rolls-Royce, Bombardier and Toyota, but by myriad smaller companies across an enormous range of different sectors. Together they have made Derby a real centre of excellence and given great jobs to generations of local residents.

And it's not just in the very visible industrial jobs that Derby is strong. We also have wide and varied retail options, local craft businesses, creative industries and growing startups.

But our world is constantly changing, and jobs need to keep up if we're not to be the world's experts in something the world no longer needs. And as with so much of life, Brexit will mean major upheaval. Rolls-Royce have already started moving work from Derby to Germany and more work is at risk. Toyota have indicated future work will only come if Britain maintains open free trade with the EU, following Nissan and Honda both cancelling planned UK car production. Other employers large and small have started moving work to the EU or simply cutting back on projects altogether.

Whatever the future holds, Derby needs to be ready to adapt to it and thrive at all levels.

We will -

- Work with Derby businesses to help them grow and provide great jobs and services for our community
- Work with and support Derby' largest employers to reduce job losses into Europe
- Strengthen cross-sector Derby businesses networks, allowing local businesses to share expertise and more easily find suppliers and customers
- Campaign for the national government to fully replace EU funding for businesses in Derby lost due to Brexit
- Work with Derby businesses to provide high quality work experience placements and apprenticeships, and post-training mentoring
- Provide 'Startup incubators' and co-working hubs that can help build the businesses of the future and enable them to grow from the initial idea to larger companies that can stand on their own feet
- Establish a scheme for local businesses to get involved with schools as governors, mentors and advisors to enable children to see more options for their future
- Support the development and expansion of specialist work-focused education such as the University Technical College and JCB Academy, providing a different option for those who want it
- Encourage Derby City Council to buy from local companies
- Improve the marketing and range of our local markets in Derby, including specialist and artisan market stalls, providing a wider range of products to local people in their community and more options for businesses starting out to reach new local customers
- Work with owners of empty shops to encourage short term 'pop up' shops from a range of sources -commercial 'not in Derby' charity, community and voluntary groups, startup businesses
- Provide business rate incentives to incentivise 'pop up' shops and keep local and city centres busy
- Campaign to reform of Business Rates so the system is fair to all types of businesses



Communities To Be Proud Of

The Derby we see now wasn't born as a city, but as a series of smaller communities that grew and came together. Derby's communities continue to have their own distinctive local identities. People aren't just proud to come from Derby - they're proud residents of Normanton, Littleover, Mackworth, Alvaston and so many other communities. And in our varied communities, we are stronger.

But people also see the problems in their communities. A shortage of affordable housing. Rampant fly tipping. Traffic congestion and some of the worst air quality in Britain. Local amenities like parks slowly decaying.

A strong, happy community committed to working together can improve the quality of life for everyone in and around it. A community that sees things falling apart can so easily drift apart.

We will -

- Make Street Pride services more efficient and effective to stop communities falling into disrepair
- Clear away flytipping and provide decent and accessible waste and recycling facilities to reduce the amount that gets tipped in the first place.
- Ensure broken street lights and signs are repaired promptly and properly.
- Repair potholes properly the first time rather than doing a temporary repair and then a proper one later.
- Make it easier for people to report problems such as pot holes, blocked drains and gullies, broken street lamps and signs, and provide meaningful feedback on the repairs
- Change the rules to make it easier for local community groups to do jobs like litter picking and cutting back of overgrown verges, rather than tying them up in red tape
- Work with residents to look after their local trees -and where those trees might be past their best but are still valued by local residents, we'll not just cut them down as other councils have but give residents the option to contribute towards replacing their community's trees
- Aim for 'Street furniture' such as benches, fences, cycle parking, bollards and lamp posts to have visual appeal – such as the hippo bench in Allenton – as well as being functional
- Make it easier for local residents to find out when and how community buildings in their area such as school halls, libraries and park pavilions are available for hire, and make them simpler for the community to use
- Improve language learning opportunities to help all Derby communities build better relationships
- Work to support diverse, integrated communities from all backgrounds



Making The Most Of What Derby Offers

Derby has a long, proud and varied heritage. We are the and home of Royal Crown Derby and gateway to the Derwent Valley cradle of the Industrial Revolution - a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We have a wide range of top-class sports teams and facilities, many Campaign for Real Ale-awarded pubs and a wide range of cultural facilities and festivals. Derby can be justly proud and has the potential to become a key destination for visitors.

At present so much of this is failing to reach its true potential though. People can and do live in Derby for years without discovering what could be key attractions, and so often end up travelling elsewhere for attractions that Derby could offer them - or often already provides - with a little more vision and attention.

And what's happening with the Assembly Rooms? Labour want to spend money like it's water on a new building that we simply can't afford following their chaotically overbudget A52 upgrade project. And the Conservatives' refurbishment plan might be cheaper, but it leaves a large bill for a building that, once reopened, will already be near the end of its life. We need a rethink.

We will -

- Launch a citywide consultation involving different groups and local schools on a 'Plan for Derby entertainment' to develop a locally-driven vision that can deliver the facilities people actually want and will use
- Work with the new library operators DHA to unpick the chaos that Labour left behind and get a functioning, sustainable library service running across Derby's communities
- Develop an active 'City centre strategy' so that, as Internet shopping turns city centres increasingly into leisure spaces, there is a comprehensive vision for the city centre as an active, living community space during the day, evening and night offering a blend of shopping, leisure, entertainment, art & theatre and city centre living
- Ensure that Derby City Centre is welcoming and attractive to visitors and has good basic visitor services like tourist information, signage and accessible toilets
- Work with local interest groups in areas such as local history, nature and the arts to enable them to grow and share their interests and expertise with a wider audience
- Conduct a full review of our city's heritage offering to visitors and identify sites such as the city's underground tunnels that could be better presented and promoted as historical tourist attractions
- Work closely with Derby Museums and Art Gallery, supporting them to develop their offering to our local community
- Encourage Derby Theatre with its expansion plans to improve our cultural offering
- Seek to bring in commercial experts to manage all of Derby's publicly-owned performance venues to achieve their full potential and increase the number and range of events offered in Derby and the income from these venues
- Seek to establish Derby as a regional centre for the arts and entertainment
- Work with local amateur and community arts groups to better promote their activities and make it easier to enjoy year-round arts programmes of all types, both as a consumer and participant
- Promote Derby's parks for commercial events such as concerts to help raise money for their upkeep and improvement



- Work to improve visitors' experience of Derby by bringing together marketing for what Derby can offer, both in services such as accommodation and dining and attractions such as arts and theatre, entertainment, sports, festivals and tourist trails to maximise our local heritage



Sport and Leisure For All

Derby deserves sports and leisure facilities that are available and affordable for all, so everyone can enjoy activities and achieve their full potential. Labour's neglect saw Derby for a period without proper swimming facilities and saw Moorways closed long before a replacement was available. And now contracts are signed and work is underway, Labour want to revisit plans for a city centre pool that they previously rejected.

And without Labour's interference, Derby could be hosting cycling for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Labour reduced the venue capacity below what was needed for such a major event and then mismanaged, leaving it failing to turn the profit other arenas do.

We will -

- Reactivate the Sports Strategy and ensure good facilities are available for all
- Consult with the operators of velodromes in Manchester and London to learn from their experience and get the Arena running at a profit as they are
- Work with our local sports venues to better co-ordinate with local accommodation and entertainment venues to create a better total visitor experience and keep visitors enjoying Derby for longer
- Partner with Derby County Football Club and fans groups to promote 'Safe standing' and support its implementation in Derby
- Make better use of Alvaston's top-class BMX track and develop its visitor facilities to support larger regular events
- Launch a public consultation on what community sport and leisure facilities Derby residents actually want to get the best value for local people
- Better promote existing exercise and activity classes for older and more vulnerable people, and seek to expand them across the whole city.



A Cleaner, Greener Derby for Everyone

Compared to many cities, we are fortunate in Derby. We have a wide variety of popular and well-used parks and public open spaces, and beautiful trees on many streets.

Sadly that's not the whole story. Government figures show that Derby has some of the worst air quality in the country, putting people's health at risk. The Conservatives' plans for Stafford Street aren't fixing the problem but spreading it out to try and sneak under the legal limit. Travel options are often restricted if you aren't going by car. Derby's parks are suffering from a lack of maintenance that's seeing them deteriorate. Derby's recycling levels crashed under the previous Labour Council, leading to waste going unnecessarily to landfill.

Being around nature and having open green spaces available has proven health and wellbeing benefits for all. Spaces that a community have a sense of ownership for can thrive and develop far better. If we're to see the benefits for our community, we need to make some changes.

We will -

- Develop plans to make Derby a leader in action to address the climate emergency
- Engage fully with the National Infrastructure Commission to conduct a serious analysis of Derby's infrastructure to encourage green, sustainable development across the whole city with public involvement to help set priorities
- Increase the number of public trees and plants around the city to create a softer, more natural environment
- Develop and improve walking routes to the city and district centres and increase provision of seating to help those who could walk further if they could take periodic breaks
- Open up more of the Derwent riverside area and make it a more attractive space to be
- Follow the example of other towns and cities that have deliberately planted not just ornamental but edible plants in their public spaces, and expand schemes such as Littleover's community orchard across the city
- Support 'Friends of Local Parks' and 'Community in Bloom' organisations citywide to promote a sense of community ownership of shared spaces
- Support local community groups who wish to care for highway land in their communities, and produce guidelines to help groups do this
- Enable and encourage community-managed gardens to brighten up our city
- Prioritise native UK species and locally sourced plants to promote biodiversity and avoid importing pests
- Commit to reducing the use of artificial herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers in public parks with a goal of eliminating their routine use
- Seek to plant some verges as permanent wildflower meadows that can encourage bees, butterflies and other insects rather than just grass and reduce maintenance costs
- Engage with people about why air quality is important and how they can help improve their local air quality
- Seek to find a more comprehensive solution to Derby's air quality problems than the Stafford Street diversions that spread pollution out
- Encourage and support community measurement of air quality using cheap commercially available sensors which can be linked in to a centrally published database to let communities see the state of their area and act



- Increase the number of waste and recycling bins in public areas to make it easier for people to do the right thing
- Support community litter pick activity sessions



Caring For Those Who Need Our Help

An ageing population as the post-war 'baby boom' retire. Street homelessness that's still an issue nationwide. An NHS and social care service in crisis with rapidly increasing numbers of hospitals running into deficits.

There is no doubt that the need for some people to be cared for is real and substantial. And it is the mark of a society how it cares for those in the greatest need. The Liberal Democrats are committed to doing all we can to effectively meet that demand.

We will -

- Work with and support charities and groups that help the homeless
- Develop more extra care housing across the city
- Campaign for extra 1p on income tax to save the NHS and social care
- Increase support for foster care working more supportively with carers to help them support each other with training and mentoring programmes and 'Open days' where possible carers can get a taste of what's involved
- Aim to recruit more foster carers by publicising the role and opportunities at life-change times such as house moves and children leaving home
- Take a fair share of child refugees in Derby
- Work to actively improve Derby as a dementia-friendly city
- Establish a proactive philosophy in all care contexts to identify risk factors and vulnerable individuals and families early where challenges can be addressed more easily before problems have grown
- Recruit Local Area Coordinators across the whole city to help people in their own communities and help them stay in their own homes for longer



A City Accessible To All

As our population ages, so the number of people who need extra help increases. Some only need a little, others more, but they are all our friends, neighbours and families and have just as much of a right to enjoy what Derby offers as anyone else.

Good disability-aware provision can make services better for everyone. Simpler access ways, better signage, clearer paths. And by allowing more people to participate, we help Derby grow as stronger, happier city.

We will:

- Conduct a review of city and district centre accessibility with city centre managers and retail centre operators to identify trouble spots and devise plans to improve them
- Conduct a full disabled access audit for all Council facilities across Derby
- Work with local bus companies to make sure signs are clearly visible to all and buses give audio as well as visual route information and encourage buses to be fitted with driver hearing loops for communication with deaf passengers
- Work with local blind and partially sighted groups to identify problem areas such as public staircases and escalators and institute 'best practice' improvements such as use of contrasting colours to make them more easily identified
- Work to maintain publicly accessible toilets that are clearly signed and contain well designed and maintained accessible provision
- Where possible have separate disabled toilets and baby changing facilities
- Work with local shops and businesses to install and promote hearing loop facilities so deaf customers can shop with confidence
- Campaign for widely available carer travel passes for public transport that are usable across Derby and more widely so as not to impose extra travel costs on disabled people who need carer support
- Work with the local NHS to ensure that all GPs, pharmacies and other applicable services comply with the Accessible Information Standard



Transport We Can All Rely On

For our city to work, people need to be able to move around it easily - whether that's by car, public transport, bicycle or on foot.

We all know cities that are worse than Derby - but we also know things could be much better, and make living in and travelling around Derby a smoother, more pleasant experience for everyone.

We will -

- Institute a review of traffic at major junctions and key routes to get traffic flowing better
- Evaluate the results of existing 20mph areas and residents' views on them, and work with communities to introduce and extend them where they're wanted
- Encourage the expansion of the E-Bikes scheme to district centres and other community hubs across the city
- Work with the Institute of Advanced Motorists and other local and national expert groups to review direction signage around Derby to make it easier for people to get around
- Work with the emergency services to install transponders on traffic lights across the city to prioritise emergency services vehicles responding to a call
- Review pedestrian and cyclist crossings to ensure they are working effectively for all users and change timings and phasings where necessary
- Allow residents in resident-only parking areas to use visitor one-day permits themselves where they have a temporary need such as building work occupying their driveway
- Welcome residents being able to purchase parking permits online and print at home to save residents and the council time and money
- Get bus companies and local communities working better together to improve local services
- Work with bus companies to ensure that major routes across the city have full services well into the evening
- Increase the number of sheltered bus stops with seats to make buses easier and more pleasant to use in all conditions, and review locations with bus companies and user groups
- Work to increase the number of standard electric car charging points available across Derby and ensure they are installed sensitively so as not to cause obstructions to other users
- Help develop electric charging solutions for streets without off-street parking
- Review the Council's own vehicle fleet and prioritise hybrid and full electric vehicles when purchasing vehicles to reduce running costs and improve air quality
- Provide more benches and other public seating to make it easier for more people to walk around the city
- Work with cycling groups to develop a strategy to increase cycling in Derby, improving health and helping traffic flow by taking cars off the road
- Increase the amount of available cycle parking in the city and district centres, and in popular destinations such as retail parks
- Work with groups such as Living Streets and major destinations and businesses to improve and promote walking as a transport option across Derby
- Review major roads and junctions to ensure they have good accessible pedestrian and disabled crossings and aren't just designed for cars
- Promote car sharing schemes to reduce costs, traffic and parking congestion
- Campaign for the Midland Mainline electrification programme cancelled by the Conservative government to be restored, allowing smoother, cleaner and greener trains into Derby



- Task the Council's transport officers with developing and publishing targets for improving walking and cycling and identifying the means to deliver this
- Review the roads maintenance policy to catch repairs when they are simple and cheaper, before long and costly works are needed.
- As climate change leads to more intense rainfall, develop a plan to ensure that road drainage is adequate to prevent flooding and is properly maintained



A Better Deal for Derby

Cuts to local council funding from national government are a fact of life that Derby City Council must deal with like other councils all across the country.

About a third of funding for Derby's services comes from Westminster and is controlled tightly, with cuts continuing. Changes to this funding can only be successful when made rationally with clear facts to back them up, and in cooperation with other Local Authorities.

Derby's previous Labour leadership failed to work widely with other councils and just focused on emotion and endlessly blaming others. Labour wasted money and didn't spend based on evidence in consultation with local people, but on pet projects and in favoured areas without measurable objectives and poorly managed projects like the A52 upgrade that's overspent by tens of millions. Under the new administration things are improving, but there is still too little sign that the government is listening and much work remains to do.

We will enable the people of Derby to take an active part in running and supporting their local communities. We believe that communities are strengthened by people working together to improve community involvement and local facilities, rather than being run solely from the Council House.

We will -

- Provide fair and effective funding for the whole of Derby, investing money more equally across Derby and on what local residents want - not just pet projects in favoured areas
- Listen to communities to get the best ideas on how to use the funds that are available
- Encourage the new Neighbourhood teams to use the skills we asked for them to have to work with communities to seek grant funding for local schemes and projects from Trusts and other grant-giving bodies
- Work more effectively with national government and the Local Government Association to get the best funding possible for Derby based on an up-to-date formula that properly reflects Derby's needs
- Maximise funding for Derby by having the Neighbourhood teams work with community groups to bid for extra funding from trusts and other funding bodies
- Consult with local communities to find out what they want rather than spending money on changes they don't want
- Empower communities to deliver changes to benefit their areas
- Enable charities and community organisations to help meet communities' needs.



A Council That Listens

Your Council is elected to serve you. Not just to ask for votes once a year and presume that, because you voted for them that they now know exactly what you want for the next year, but to listen to the needs and cares of people from all over Derby, all year round.

We can't satisfy everyone all at once - but we can ensure the Council has a culture at all levels of listening to and serving us all first and foremost.

We will -

- Restore a good working relationship with the voluntary sector and work to make sure it is strong and secure
- Ensure Derby retains successful libraries across the city
- Create a culture of openness and accountability in the provision of services
- Make the city council serve and stay accountable to the people by changing to the committee system and retaining the present system of electing by thirds rather than only once every four years
- Resist efforts to reduce the Council's accountability to local people by reducing the number of elections
- Take advantage of the Job Centre being in the Council House to work more closely together and better benefit people
- Look to use shared back-office services and shared working with other local authorities where it can be shown to decrease costs without reducing local services
- Open a conversation with neighbouring councils about expanding the city' boundaries to match the growing community of Derby rather than the current artificial lines that cut through community ties
- Acknowledge the Government report that Derby is an area with a history and risk of electoral fraud and work to provide free voter ID to all eligible voters as in Northern Ireland
- Reverse changes to planning committee rules that have made it much harder for communities and individuals to have a say in decisions that affect them.