

# **Leicester's had enough. It's time for change.**

**Our plan to make Leicester a better  
place to live, work and raise a family**

**The City of Leicester Conservative Party  
Manifesto 2023**



# **Our Guarantee**

**If there is a majority of Conservative Councillors on May 5th, we guarantee we will scrap Leicester's City Mayor and unlock the potential of our city.**

**We guarantee:**

- Bring millions of pounds of extra funding into Leicester through the East Midlands deal.**
- No housing or traveller developments on any of Leicester's parks and playgrounds**
- Launching a 'Council tax lock' to ensure council tax never rises above inflation**
- Launching 'Made in Leicester' programme to become the UK's leading city for textile manufacturing**
- Maintain weekly bin collections**

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BUILD A CITY  
LEICESTER'S  
PROUD OF

LEICESTER'S  
HAD ENOUGH

SCRAP  
LEICESTER'S  
CITY MAYOR

SCRAP  
LEICESTER'S  
CITY MAYOR

SAVE  
LEICESTER'S  
GREEN  
SPACES

BUILD A CITY  
LEICESTER'S  
PROUD OF

Conservatives

BUILD A CITY  
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# Introduction

For over twenty years, this city has felt trapped, like a lion in a cage. We have all shared the same frustration – like a car blocked in the traffic. We have solutions and can see the way ahead. We know why we are stuck and it's time to make the change that Leicester needs.

**We have been paralysed by a broken system that simply refuses to deliver the priorities of local people. And unblocking this system is what this election is all about.**

Scrap the City Mayor and we end the divisive rule that has been a disaster for our city.

Scrap the City Mayor and we restore confidence and certainty to businesses and families in Leicester.

Scrap the City Mayor and we will see new investment into our city.

Scrap the City Mayor and we can focus on the priorities of the people of Leicester, like our roads, our schools and the future of our green spaces.

Scrap the City Mayor and we can release that lion from its cage and take this amazing city forward.

And as things stand, there is only one way to scrap Leicester's City Mayor - and that is to return a Conservative Council with a working majority on May 5th.

We have mapped out a fantastic programme for the years ahead, to unite our city and return us all to our former days of glory.

Leicester has an extraordinary history of culture, manufacturing and business, but if we make our Council work for local people the best days of this city are ahead of us.

Right now Leicester feels left behind. Talent and genius are not taken advantage of and often leave the city. Opportunity doesn't exist. Now is the time to take control of the city's future – we can be the city that we've all dreamt about and have the opportunities that others do.

We Conservatives believe passionately that every child should have a better opportunity to succeed in life than previous generations. Conservatives in Leicester know that this can happen if we make better economic choices for our city.

We want everyone to thrive in Leicester and be proud to call it home – so we are investing in our high streets, creating a state-of-the-art sports sector and creating a new nature reserve right here in this city.

Everyone in Leicester should be able to travel around our city easily and affordably, so we are rolling out free bus travel to those in education and over 60 - allowing everybody to park for free on a

Saturday and cleaning up our roads and streets so we can be proud of them.

If local Conservatives are elected on May 4th, we will launch an investment revolution for this city. Now is the time to invest in our manufacturing industry. Now is the time to put Leicester graduates first. Now is the time to create the space for business to thrive.

We are the only party that can deliver a sensible and sustainable future for Leicester because we are the only party that pledges to start the process of scrapping the City Mayor from day one without the need for a referendum. With local Conservatives you'll get a Leicester to be proud of.



# NEW PARKS POOL



SAVE  
LEICESTER'S  
GREEN  
SPACES

SAVE  
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GREEN  
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Conservation

Conservation

LEICESTER'S  
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# Scrap the City Mayor

In late 2022, local Conservatives announced that we would scrap the role of City Mayor in Leicester. Our new deal for Leicester will put every resident at the heart of everything the council does and ensuring local priorities are met - the Council will offer great public services, and crucially ensure that Leicester's potential is reached.

We must move on from years of let-down and disappointment. Placing our city's power into the hands of just one individual with no way of removing him from office was never going to work. Nobody other than a few Labour politicians voted for this system and that's why Conservatives will scrap it.

Our priority as Conservatives is to restore trust in our electoral system in Leicester. Our new deal for the people of Leicester will ensure politicians are held to account at every level of office.

If we elect a majority of Conservative Councillors on May 4th, we will begin the process of scrapping the City Mayor and re-introducing a Leader of the Council system, which will give the power back to the Councillors that represent you.

The party's Mayoral candidate is standing in this election to facilitate the removal of this post. They will work with the Leader of the group in our transitional phase, which we expect to be completed before 2024.

The Leader of the Council system is much more democratic and accountable for the people of Leicester. In recent years too much power has been taken away from elected ward Councillors meaning local priorities get missed at the city level.

Scrapping the City Mayor will mean less money is spent on politicians at City Hall and there is more funding for you and your family.

The Conservative's new plan for Leicester will reduce the amount spent on elected leadership roles by half. Derby who operates a leader of the council system currently spends £72,425 on leadership roles. Leicester spends £388,627. The City Mayor is paid £73,996.08, meaning one individual is paid more than the entire cabinet in Derby.

Our plan for Leicester will also mean closer ties with our friends in the County. We will launch a joint bid with Leicestershire County Council to join the East Midlands Devolution Deal.

This will allow Leicester to be part of one of the biggest combined authorities which will enable us to attract jobs and inward investment therefore improving opportunities through skills and training for all our residents, improve

opportunities to gain funding for housing development as well as funding and opportunities to tackle the carbon reduction on a much bigger scale and faster.

The East Midlands Devolution Deal will not take any of Leicester's powers, responsibilities or current funding away, and it will not replace our local decision making structures and practices.

Our new administration in Leicester will produce a new council budget within six months of taking office after a full audit of Council spending has taken place on all council activity since the role of City Mayor was created.

The new Council budget will include our Council tax lock to ensure Council tax, Council house rent and district heating charges never rise above inflation in Leicester.





# Unlock Leicester's Potential

Since the Mayoral system in Leicester was launched, our city has been held back with years of Labour rule. Dragging our city down and pushing businesses and jobs out of Leicester. It's time that our city is given the opportunity to be great again with investment in areas that will make Leicester a thriving place to live and work once more.

Our three-step process to unleash Leicester's potential will ensure that every kind of business in our city has a fair opportunity to grow and employ more local people.

## **Made in Leicester**

The success of our city's manufacturing trade, and the growth of textile giants such as Corah, Wolsey and Byford, led to the claim that Leicester "clothes the world" by the middle years of the 20th Century.

However, more recent times have led to a significant decline in Leicester's manufacturing business and the recent scandals surrounding the industry in our city.

Local Conservatives will launch a new programme to bring manufacturing back to Leicester. 'Made in Leicester' will promote basic standards of product, employment and sustainability.

The programme run by Leicester City Council will promote the produce of any manufacturer in our city if they meet these three standards. These manufacturers will also have access to our 'Made in Leicester' stamp for their products.

Any manufacturer found to be cutting standards will be removed from our programme and if required will be reported to trading standards as a matter of urgency.

'Made in Leicester' will promote our industry but also ensure that the scandals of previous years do not reoccur.

## **Leicester First**

Leicester's fantastic two universities attract first-class talent from across the UK and the world. Unfortunately, Leicester doesn't retain the graduates that it produces. All too often graduates return

to their home town or nearby cities such as Birmingham or London.

Under Conservative administration, Leicester City Council will work to keep its graduates by offering a number of incentives for the graduates and rewards for employers.

Leicester First Housing will offer specific housing for Leicester graduates at a discounted rate to ensure our graduates can comfortably live in our city. Within our first term, we expect Leicester First Housing to be operational in the city centre within new developments on brownfield sites. The Council leadership will begin working with developers on Leicester First Housing as soon as possible and all council-owned sites will be looked at for feasibility.

The City Council will also work with recruiters to offer training on how to hire



graduates and speed up their transition to leadership roles. As a Council, we will be looking to set up a partnership with both universities to hire graduates when vacancies become available.

By working with employers, universities and council departments we can retain the top talent that studies in Leicester.

#### **Powering up our High Street**

Local Conservatives believe Leicester's many local high streets are underfunded and are not operating at their maximum capacity.

A Conservative-run Leicester City Council will use government grant funding to level up our high streets whilst creating high street forums to bring retailers together, share expertise and lobby their Councillors.

We have highlighted 6 initial High Street zones where the forums will be set up and investment will initially be sought.

These High Streets are;

- Belgrave Road/ Melton Road
- Leicester City Centre
- Evington Road/ East Park Road
- Green Lane Road
- Narborough Road
- Queens Road

Conservatives want to create high streets that we are all proud of. High streets that we can shop, visit and park in, have the shops we need and the restaurants we like.

Our attitude is a business-first approach and we will work alongside Leicester's high street businesses to create the high streets that we need.







Ring road

(M1) (M69)

Leicester West A 563

Glenfield Hospital H

**NO  
HOUSES  
ON  
OUR  
GREEN**

SAVE OUR GREENS  
BRENT KNOWLE GARDENS  
HOMESIDE GARDENS  
SAVE OUR GREENS

**HOUSES  
NO  
GREEN SPACES  
YES**

GREEN SPACE  
P  
[Additional illegible text]





# Strengthen Local Services

In our first months in office, Conservatives must act quickly to make life better for everyone in the city. From repairing our roads, maintaining weekly bin collections and providing the funding that our young people need.

We have listened to you, and now we will act on the priorities of local people. We aim to ensure Leicester is delivering the best public services across the UK, that can help and support you throughout your life.

But none of it will happen without a Conservative administration at Leicester City Council.

**Leicester City Council must offer the best public services that are possible. We have listened to the priorities of local people and it's time to deliver for Leicester.**

Our road network is so important to everyone in our city. It's how our children get to school, we all travel to work and we get to the places that are important to us. After years of anti-car policies from the Labour-run council, Leicester is in desperate need of repair and restoration to our road network.

Conservatives pledge to remove all

'pop-up' bicycle lanes across the city to re-open our roads to taxpayers across the City. We will also review the new bus lanes in the city to ensure the majority of road users can get to and from their destinations, quickly, safely and efficiently.

Repair is also a key priority for our roads, that is why we pledge to roll out a great Leicester clean-up within our first 100 days of office. This will include the annual cleaning by council staff of our roads and street signs across the city. To work efficiently our roads must be clean.

The modernisation of our road network will be the next stage in ensuring we all travel in a quicker, safer and more efficient manner. By the end of our first term in office, Conservatives will pledge to have a modernisation programme underway, which will repair roads on the outer edge of our city but also provide the technology we need for the future such as electric car charging points. Electrification of our cars will take place over the next ten years and we must ensure we are ready.

Conservatives will invest in those who use public transport across the road





network too. Our bus system in Leicester should be accessible for all, which is why we pledge to give free bus travel for all of those in full-time and further education and apprenticeship programmes. We will also ensure that anybody over 60 has the same access and a free bus pass across Leicester's network.

Our investment in Leicester's local services will not stop at travel. Housing will be a key priority for this Council over the next four years. Local Conservatives want to make it easier and quicker for those who have Council Housing maintenance issues to report the issues and receive the repairs that they need at an appropriate time. We will review the current system for housing repairs and take action within the first twelve months of office to speed up repairs on all of Leicester's housing estates.

Local Conservatives will also ensure that waste collection continues as a weekly service for both recycling and general waste. We will extend Leicester's recycling collection offer so that any household can apply for a free recycling bin rather than using the current recycling bags.

We will also continue to invest in schooling across the city. Leicester is fortunate to have a variety of different schools that match the different needs of our children, we believe these are services that are a priority for our city and we will continue funding them. This is why we commit to continuing the residential offer at Ashfield Academy and every other school in the city that educates our children with complex needs.

# Putting You and Your Family First

Removing the City Mayor allows your local Councillors to take control of putting you and your family at the forefront of Leicester's decision making. As a party, we have pledged to join up decision making for our environment and the future housing needs of the city but we also want to place the people of Leicester at the heart of these decisions.

Local Conservatives want to use our great environment to further the sporting offer within our city whilst ensuring that Leicester has a housing stock ready for the next 50 years.

**Our plan means making sure people have access to world-class public services, that they feel safe on the streets, working families get to keep more of their own money, and that we help with the cost of living pressures.**

We all recognise that we need to increase the rate of house building across our city to keep up with the supply of those wanting to buy and rent. Local Conservatives want to work with the private sector to increase the supply of housing in our city but commit to building in environmentally responsible places.

We must scrap Labour's Local Plan and redraw the future of our city by putting

Leicester's green spaces first.

Conservatives will prioritise housebuilding on brownfield sites and remove the ban on new high-rise buildings in our city centre, whilst ensuring that any new development in the city has active ground floor uses that appeal to our communities.

We will also work to discourage new student accommodation in our city and work with private developers on plans for private housing in our city centre. We want a Leicester-first approach where housebuilding is concerned.

The Conservative plan for development will create more places for people of our

city to live, work and enjoy.

The number of empty homes in Leicester is also a big problem. We believe it is the City Council's responsibility to ensure Leicester's housing stock, both public and private, is used. We will therefore make it easier to report long-term empty homes in Leicester and increase the investment in the housing department to ensure that empty homes come back into use much more quickly.

The biggest issue with empty homes in Leicester remains on Hospital Close. The Conservative leadership team will ensure that the houses on Hospital Close are fully operational by the end of 2023.





Housing is just the first step in putting you and your family first. Local Conservatives will also work to increase investment in sporting facilities across the city.

We aim to build a sporting quarter around the northwest of the city. This will be based around both Western Park and Beaumont Park. We believe Leicester's facilities can improve and we want to work with the sporting bodies to bring quality competition to Leicester within our first term of office.

Local Conservatives will also extend the investment into Leicester's Council-run leisure centres and ensure that they stay in public ownership. Giving local people state-of-the-art facilities at reasonable prices.

The future of our environment underpins, the future of our city. We must make our environment in Leicester sustainable and give it a long-term future. Scrapping large swathes of green spaces is not a good idea for the city's future which is why we will cut all green belt development from the local plan.

Local Conservatives will go further than this though, we will apply for a special status for Western Park golf course to create a nature reserve within the space with the idea that we will attract wildlife and species for us all to enjoy.





Welcome to  
**Cossington  
Recreation Ground**

**LEICESTER'S  
HAD  
ENOUGH**

 **Conservatives**

**SCRAP  
LEICESTER'S  
CITY MAYOR**

 **Conservatives**

**LEICESTER'S  
IN  
CRISIS**

**SCRAP  
LEICESTER'S  
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 **Conservatives**

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## **The City of Leicester Conservative Party Manifesto 2023**



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