

Plymouth Conservative Manifesto 2023

Here for you... Delivering for you



**Plymouth
Conservatives**

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Plymouth Conservatives 2023 Local Election Manifesto

This current Conservative administration has been driven by 4 key principles since it took office in March 2022.

- Access to outstanding education
- Access to good quality housing
- Access to first class social care
- Creating high paying jobs.

We have been driven by the fact that Plymouth taxpayers, on average, are paid £365 a year less than others across the country, we acknowledge this, and it has been a key driver for us.

Over the past 12 months we have been working with key employers across the city to get Plymouth residents into high paying jobs and to make the best opportunities possible for residents of our Ocean City.

On top of this, we have been working to maximise the benefits of our newly acquired free port status, something that will promote growth and allow for higher value jobs to enter the city and for companies to expand in the city.

We are proud of what we have achieved over the past 12 months, given the tough economic backdrop we have faced as an authority, and we pledge to you, the people of Plymouth, that we will continue to work for your best interests and have your best interests at the heart of every decision that we make.

What will we continue to do for you:

- Strong and sound management of the city's finances
- A strong and united Conservative team representing and delivering for you
- Strong commitment to our city's future growth and prosperity
- Offering good value for money and making the right decisions on how to spend your money, not on vanity projects, but on services for you, our residents

Plymouth Conservatives

Jobs, Local Economy and Finance

Delivering high value jobs and a strong local economy which attracts investment from both central government and businesses. We have worked with our Conservative central government, and we have been able to achieve a lot in order to fulfil our pledges to you, the people of Plymouth.

What have we delivered for you:

- We have secured and delivered the Plymouth and South Devon freeport, being the first in the country to achieve it. We will continue to make the most of the benefits and status this brings the city.
- We have maintained a balanced budget through the toughest economic climate the council has ever faced.

What we will continue to deliver for you

- We will work with partners to make Plymouth the marine autonomy capital of the world, making the most of our location as Britain's Ocean City.
- We will continue to work to expand the capacity of Plymouth's port, creating an environment for a greater amount of Foreign Direct Investment into the city as well as creating well paid jobs for the people of Plymouth.
- We will transform our retail zone, recognising the transforming high street and the change of use of our city centre.
- We will create a focus on digital jobs as to prepare for the changing economy in the future where new skills will be needed across all sectors, we want to help prepare the people of Plymouth for that transition.
- We will continue to maximise utilisation and income from our council owned business parks to create more revenue for council services.
- We will make Plymouth an attractive place for small and medium business, which we know provide huge value and potential to the people of Plymouth.

The Airport

It is unacceptable a city like Plymouth doesn't have an airport. There is one very clear message, **Vote Conservative, get an airport.** We understand the need for Plymouth to have its airport back if we want strong economic growth in the city as well as attracting high value jobs and greater investment in the city. It isn't just about the economic benefits, it will have greater impacts on our connectivity with the region, country and continent.

People

Our administration recognises that the people of Plymouth make our city the best in our country. We understand the need for your council to deliver for you and to have your interests at the heart of every decision we make and to deliver a city you are proud to call home.

Over the past 2 years, we have committed to the people of Plymouth, and we will continue to do so.

What have we delivered for you

- We have supported our veterans in the city by renewing the Armed Forces covenant and we will continue to be supporters of the veterans of our city. Further commitment can be seen through the Stirling project in Honicknowle allowing veterans to build and live in their own properties.
- We have supported Plymouth through the Cost-of-living crisis and the very real problem of child poverty. We will continue to take action to mitigate these issues. We have a track record of delivering government money to those in need as well as close partnership working with agencies across the city.
- Giving you a say on how you are governed with a consultation on our electoral cycle which will be happening over the summer, as we believe that the decision should be driven by you, not by us.
- Started the process of the Brickfields redevelopment working with partners, making Plymouth a sports hub with state-of-the-art facilities.
- Delivered SailGP for the people of Plymouth, boosting the local economy and creating a community event.

What will we do to continue delivering for you

- Improving community consultation for projects in the city ensuring that your voices are heard.
- Delivering visible, approachable and amenable local ward councillors who will be there to assist and help you with any concerns or queries you have, no matter what they are.
- We will continue to tackle violence against women and girls. Following the launch of the report and conference, we will deliver the charter and continue to deliver to work with partnership working across the city.
- Improve the councils contact centre services as we know this is a key priority for the people of Plymouth. We have listened to your concerns and feedback.

Health

Healthcare is one of the administrations key focuses. We have been able to work with our partners across the NHS and other organisations in the city to improve outcomes for patients as well as getting people out of hospital and to deliver a better domiciliary care programme for residents across the city.

We have delivered for you:

- William Patricia Venton health care centre, an intermediate care facility in order to facilitate further rehabilitation after discharge from hospital.
- Improvements to the adult social care system by recruiting more social care workers in the sector.
- Cross party engagement and agreement on a way to move forward with the critical issue of the lack of access to NHS dentistry in the city.
- Waits for Domiciliary care packages are at their lowest levels since the pandemic.

What we will continue to deliver for you:

- We will ensure that health care is at the heart of our administration.
- We will continue to have discussions to ensure that we build the West End health hub to improve health inequality across the city by offering a wide range of investigative and treatment facilities as well as GP and Dental services in a central location.
- We will continue to work with the NHS and our health partners across the city, as well as our MPs for better access to GP and Dental services.
- We will work with our partners to ensure that adult social care provision, and domiciliary care is the best it can be to deliver for our residents.
- We will ensure that health care is at the heart of our administration.
- We will reduce health inequality across the city by exploring the expansion of health and wellbeing hubs across the city in order to improve health outcomes in the city.

Education and Children's Social Care

Our children and young people in the city are a priority for this Conservative administration, with a great understanding of the responsibilities that are upon us as corporate parents for our looked after children in Plymouth. Alongside that responsibility, we are committed to creating an environment whereby every child and young person in the city can achieve their full potential, regardless of background or upbringing.

What have we delivered for you:

- Increasing the number of schools in the city achieving a good or outstanding Ofsted rating, meaning your children are getting a better education.
- We have established a Care Leavers Covenant, creating a network of individuals and businesses supporting our care leavers when they can.
- The roll out of new family hubs across the city to benefit the area's most in need.
- As the only city in Devon to have voted in the Care Leavers Characteristic, we will ensure all businesses have a full understanding of this and what is expected of them and how we can further improve the lives of our care experienced residents.

What will we continue to deliver for you:

- We want to support the growth of a wide variety of skills within the city so we will work with education organisations as well as other partners across the city for this to happen.
- We will work with our skills partners across the city to ensure that those in Post 16 education are given advice about all options as we realise University isn't for everyone.
- We will work with providers across the city to ensure that children who are in care have the best opportunities available, we will leave no child behind.
- We want to encourage fostering in the city and we will work with our foster carers to see what works and what needs to change to encourage as many people as possible to sign up to the fostering register.
- We will maximise our Children's service offer to ensure that our looked after children get the best possible level of support both whilst in the system and after they leave as we know the problems that they face won't disappear when they leave the system.
- We will embed an extensive education programme focusing on culture, aspirations and environmental sustainability to prepare children for a wide range of knowledge once they leave the education system.
- Work to ensure more children in care remain in the city and not moved out of the city where possible.

Housing

As an administration, we understand that there is a housing crisis and there is a need to build new housing whilst respecting our environment. This administration is focused on ensuring that there is housing to meet the needs of local residents across the city. We are also committed to ensuring that the usage of temporary accommodation is reduced to the lowest level and will work to introduce policies for that.

What have we delivered for you:

- We have brought forward sites, such as Kings Tamerton, allowing for the development of affordable, green homes.
- We have brought forward, with our Joint Local Plan partners, the climate emergency planning statement, ensuring that future developments are as sustainable as possible.
- We have taken swift action against unauthorised encampments in the city's green spaces.

What we will continue to deliver for you

- We will work with our partners in the Joint Local Plan to ensure that we build the housing stock we need as a city.
- We will continue to deliver homes of all types to meet the diverse housing need across the city.
- We will continue to bring forward the plan for homes such as the Former Registry office site and the site at Coypool.
- We will prioritise developing and building on our brownfield sites across the city including the redevelopment for the city centre.
- We understand that there is a crucial need for housing in the city, but we are aware that there are appropriate areas to build on and areas that are not suitable for development.
- We will continue to work in partnerships registered housing providers to help develop a high quality affordable social housing to help house Plymouth residents.
- Continue to work to address the recent rise in the use of temporary accommodation.
- We will ensure that we continue to make progress on homelessness across the city, bringing new sites into use to assist in eradicating homelessness as well as assisting with rough sleepers across the city.

Street Scene, Environment and Climate Change

We are a green and sustainable Conservative administration in Plymouth. Environment, Street Scene and Climate change are areas of that are of vital importance to us in order to both maximise the value of money you receive as residents of the city and to protect and enhance our environment to help tackle the very real problem of climate change.

What have we delivered for you

- A dedicated Cabinet position for Climate Change to give it the priority and dedication it deserves moving forward to our goal of becoming a net zero city by 2030.
- We have delivered a huge roll out of EV charging points to make the transition simpler for residents moving to EV's.
- We have made huge progress in the delivery the Chelson Meadow Solar Farm, creating a significant biodiversity net gain.
- In Central Park we have started our planned drainage improvement works near the Barn Park entrance to alleviate the winter flooding problem. The scheme will capture excessive rainfall and include 3 ponds, a stream, weirs and a swale, new trees and wildflowers will create more insect life and enhance our biodiversity.
- We have delivered the initial stages of the new Chelson Meadow Solar Farm, created sustainable energy whilst delivering 25% biodiversity net gain.
- We have delivered a clean,

What will we continue to deliver for you

- We are committed to do all we can to achieve Net Zero in the city by 2030.
- We will continue our roll out of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points across the city and to review our on-street charging policy to make owning an EV more appealing to residents across the city.
- We will set a policy on EV charging that allows us to fulfil the pledges and actions in our net zero action plan.
- Work with our Joint Local Plan partners to strengthen our planning policy to protect our environment and to help mitigate the impacts of Climate Change from new developments within the city.
- We will continue our tree planting programme across the city in areas such as Hartley Park and our other green spaces.
- We will **NOT** move to a '15-minute city' or Low Traffic Neighbourhood model in the city as seen in other areas of the country as we understand the problems and limits it will create in your lives.
- We will **NOT** impose an emissions zone on the city, as we do not want to add another tax for motorists.
- We will deliver a habitat banking system, creating a system where trees will be planted to offset emissions in the city.
- We will finish delivery of the Chelson Meadow Solar Farm.
- We will continue to listen to your views on our grass cutting schedule and if changes need to be made, we will listen.

Transport and Infrastructure

As an administration, we understand the need to provide and maintain levels of transport that a modern and vibrant city requires, as well as the infrastructure to go along with it. As an administration we have worked closely with our partners across the city to ensure that the city is as easy and as green as possible to travel around. We will continue this work going forward and make the best decisions possible for you and your families moving around the city.

What have we delivered for you

- A mass delivery of electric vehicle charging points, making it as easy as possible for you to make the transition from petrol or diesel to electric, as we know this is one of the hurdles that people face.
- We have delivered mobility hubs, allowing for easy access to electric bikes and our new car club, giving you more options when deciding how to move around the city.
- We have increased the speed on Tavistock Road to 40mph after much feedback from residents across the city.
- We have installed new cycle paths, with more on the way, making it more desirable and safer to travel by bike throughout the city.
- We have delivered help points around the city in strategic areas with calls going straight to our CCTV centre, taking another step in ensuring that our city is safe for all.
- Campervan parking for the continental ferry.
- We have commenced the much-needed dualling of Woolwell to the George scheme.

What will we continue to deliver for you

- We will work with local transport operators to reduce carbon emissions using more environmental fuels.
- We will make larger parking spaces in our Multi Story car parks.
- We will continue to work with various departments and agencies to reduce flooding risks, we need to be proactive, not reactive.
- We will purchase a new pothole repairing machine, which is quicker and has no minimum depth before repair, meaning our roads will be in a better condition.
- We will use CCTV to target hotspots of high levels of Anti-social Behaviour as well as using it.
- We will continue to deliver transport projects that make it easier for you to move around the city.