



Conservatives

Building a Better

Doncaster



**In 2021 we
have a unique
opportunity to
change
Doncaster for
a generation**

Manifesto for the Doncaster Mayoral and Council elections 2021

www.jameshart.org.uk

www.doncasterconservatives.org

Strong Leadership


In 2021 we have a unique opportunity to change Doncaster for a generation.


Now's the time for Doncaster to look forwards and work together to build our town. Doncaster has fantastic opportunities ahead to build employment opportunities, places to live and communities. Only by having an ambitious and positive plan for our town can we achieve this.

As Mayor I'll drive our town forward to take advantage of the investment that we are receiving from central government, attract inward investment and build a local economy that is resilient & able to take part in Britain's role on the world stage after Brexit.

At the 2019 General Election the Conservative Party was only 1018 votes behind Labour across Doncaster as a whole. When Nick Fletcher became Don Valley's first Conservative MP he showed that Conservatives can win in Doncaster.

Now is the time to act if you want real change across Doncaster, now is the time to vote Conservative!

 @James4Doncaster

 James Hart 4 Doncaster Mayor

 James Hart

James Hart
Mayoral Candidate



Jane Cox
Conservative Group Leader



Doncaster is a fantastic town with great heritage and an even brighter future. It's in our hands!

Collectively we have a choice to make and for the first time ever Doncaster could elect a Conservative mayor - James Hart. Whilst we need to embrace our history, now more than ever, we need to look forward to the future.

Doncaster, for too long, has been held back by a Labour administration who do not have the foresight, passion or ability to take the town forward. It's important to move away from wasting money on even more expensive vanity projects - with limited success Labour have tried their best to whitewash over the town's real problems.

Addressing issues such as the state of the town centre and fly-tipping in rural areas would improve daily life for all of us.

If you agree with what we are saying then don't just say so silently - make sure you vote for Conservatives and make James Hart mayor!



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Environment



Build our community litter pickers

We will build a network of litter pickers throughout all of our communities using existing individuals and groups and attracting new volunteers. We will provide funding for equipment and help coordinate action days for each community team. Community teams will be rewarded for their efforts per kilo of litter that they pick. This will be in the form of Community Credits that can be reinvested into local facilities and community groups.

The groups will be coordinated through a single point of contact within the council. Training and equipment will be provided, and each community team will have a designated pick up or drop off point to have their litter collected. Community Credits will be uncapped but must be spent in the area in which the community team operate.

Street scene review

We will create beautiful places to live in our high-density housing areas through partnerships with creative outdoor design organisations. We will remove unnecessary street furniture.

Doncaster has a number of high-density housing areas built in the late 1800's that would benefit from renewal and refreshing. A number of organisations are experienced in working with these communities to develop innovative street scenes that meet the community's needs, creating colourful and vibrant living environments.

Full review of green lanes & footpaths

Doncaster has a wonderful network of green lanes & footpaths that many residents use for recreational activities on a regular basis. Unfortunately, green lanes are also often used for fly tipping. We will conduct a full review of the green lanes across the borough and ensure that the access to them is restricted to commercial vehicles wherever possible while still keeping them open for leisure and equine use.

We'll wage a war on fly tippers by securing sites that are frequently used for fly tipping, placing cameras on those sites that cannot be secured and by making it easier for residents to drop waste at our existing recycling centres. This will include reviewing opening times and exploring the possibility of making one site a full 24-hour operation.

A new tree for every resident

We commit to planting a new tree for every resident of Doncaster over our 4-year term, which will be just over 300,000 trees in total.

By working in partnership with conservation groups, schools, Parish & Town Councils and community groups that look after open spaces we'll build a network of volunteers to help plant a tree for everyone who lives in Doncaster.



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Economic

Build a market fit for the future

For too long our town's market has been neglected. Doncaster deserves a market fit for the future, we cannot hold on dogmatically to the market of the past. We'll put together a 20 year plan to build our market back to the shopping destination that it used to be.

We'll dramatically change the market by creating a market plan that integrates traditional market stalls with food outlets, live entertainment and new retail space. We'll also make it easier to get quickly in and out of the market for people to nip in to shop for less than 1 hour. Part of the restructuring of the market place will be a reduction in the number of hawkers licences available and a commitment to hold any festive fayres in front of the corn exchange to draw visitors into the heart of the market.

Bringing our Town Centre to life

We need to rebalance the economy of our Town Centre by creating an environment that people want to live and work in not just shop.

Recent events have had further impact on the viability of retail space within all towns and cities. To address the drastic decline of the centre of Doncaster we propose to build upon the foundations of the existing Urban Master Plan to repurpose large proportions of the town centre for residential and non-retail workspaces.



Promoting the world of work

The first steps into work are a vital building block in all young peoples lives, we'll work with partners to promote part time working opportunities for 14 to 16 year olds and make the process of applying for work permits for young people smoother and more efficient.

It shouldn't be as difficult and cumbersome as it is in Doncaster to formally employ a young person in a part time role. Many of us often hark back to our Saturday jobs and the freedom it gave to make our own choices in life at an early age. The current process of employing a young person is overly bureaucratic in Doncaster, this needs changing and the benefits of part time work for young people needs promoting to both young people and employers. Employers seem to have forgotten the benefits of employing young people and have misconceptions about the rules.

Develop our towns and villages

We recognise that the economic activity of Doncaster is not centred in the town. We commit to have a dedicated economic plan for each of our towns and villages that will be developed with the community.

For too long the development of our towns and villages has played second fiddle to the development of the Town Centre. We will plan for the development of these key areas of the borough, spreading jobs more evenly and creating

employment opportunities close to home. We'll invest in localised business networks that can support each other and give focus to local economic regeneration. Not only will this reduce transport pressures, but it will foster a new sense of community.



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Governance



Modern slavery task force

Modern slavery is an issue hidden from society that affects thousands of people every year. We commit to create a multi service Modern Slavery Task Force with the aim of eradicating Modern Slavery from Doncaster.

A coordinated task force raising awareness of the issue of modern slavery across the borough, working together to share information and resources to tackle this hidden crime is the only way of wiping this from

Doncaster. We will appoint an independent chair to this task force with experience in addressing this crime.

Devolve power to Parish and Town Councils

We will develop a voluntary framework to devolve power to Parish and Town councils. This will give local representatives, who are closest to residents, the opportunity to develop the services that their Parish or Town council offer. Where these councils do not exist we will support communities who want to form councils to take advantage of this opportunity.

Parish and Town Councillors operate at the heart of their communities and have a detailed understanding of the immediate and long-term needs of the residents they serve. Councils who have invested in developing their existing staff and councillors are well placed to take on additional responsibilities for localised service delivery. We will devolve funds down to deliver these services.

Hold providers of services to the council to account for their performance

We will review the current approach of evaluating the performance of organisations that provide services to the council to make use of the indemnity clauses in council contracts. This will ensure that the public do not pay for private companies making mistakes.

While we value the expertise and capacity that outside organisations can bring to the services which the council offer, we will not sit by and let people profit on poor performance and mistakes. We'll ensure that tough performance management is in place for these organisations and they are held to account for their performance against mutually agreed targets. We will not reward failure with your money.

Bring back a mobile application for residents to report incidents to council

We all need to be able to report incidents to the council swiftly and efficiently and the most effective way for people to do it whilst out and about is through a mobile application. Let's bring back the app and make it work!

Effective communication between residents and the council is a key part of ensuring the services it delivers have the most impact. As part of a review of communication with residents we'll ensure that an up to date and functioning mobile application is relaunched and is used to push information out to residents.



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Transport

Get Doncaster moving

Our main commuting roads cannot cope with peak traffic flows. We understand that keeping traffic moving reduces vehicle emissions and has a positive impact on our economy. Through a comprehensive review of peak traffic flows around Doncaster we'll create a long term plan to get traffic moving and prepare Doncaster for an electric vehicle future.

As the number of electric vehicles grows on our streets the excuse to keep cars out of the centre of towns and cities will diminish. Effective traffic management with high levels of affordable parking for electric vehicles will be an important part of the success of any town or city. By reviewing current traffic flows and getting Doncaster moving we can prepare our town for future developments.



Improving public transport connections between our towns and villages



Doncaster has developed a very linear bus route network, we propose to review the network and create more circular routes linking communities to additional services.

We appreciate that the model our bus network operates on will not support underused bus routes but by modifying existing routes we will create a series of petal shaped routes to link communities. We'll also use existing 106 resources to promote bus usage in new residential and commercial developments.

Community charging points for electric vehicles

We'll identify key locations to be used for community charging points across Doncaster enabling anyone that wants to switch to an EV the ability to charge it even if they don't have a suitable location at their home.

As the usage of electric vehicle grows we must ensure that no one is precluded from making the switch. We'll create Community Charging Points for electric vehicles across the borough. These will ensure that even if your home doesn't have a suitable location to charge an EV you'll have access to a charging point. Community charging points will also ensure that residents that are on costly electric tariffs are able to charge their vehicles at a more economical rate.



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Community

Community credits

Across Doncaster we have a number of community groups and individuals that positively contribute to the places that they live and work. Community Credits will be our way of showing our appreciation of their efforts and groups can work towards rewards they feel their community needs.

Community groups and individuals will be able to register for the scheme and as they complete projects or activities they will accrue Community Credits which can be redeemed against a menu of community investments. These will range from de-fibrillators to play equipment to DCLT vouchers etc, Councillors will have an annual Community Credits budget to reward groups in their wards.



Mentoring programmes

Across the country well planned mentoring programmes have been established to help people when they need it most. We will put together a range of mentoring programmes focused on different sectors of the community and link this into existing mentoring programmes.

We all need someone to talk to sometimes, but we are all not fortunate to have someone. Mentoring programmes can bring together people who want to give their time to support individuals who may be going through a tough time, be at a crossroads in their life, have suffered a loss, want to start a business or be in financial trouble. We want to ensure that people right across Doncaster know where to turn to when they feel they need that support through a combined mentor programme.

Doncaster Self Build Development Alliance

Self build housing schemes are a great way to create unique living environments along with communities that are heavily rooted in the place they live. Taking an example from developments such as Graven Hill in Oxfordshire we'll put together the Doncaster Self Build Development Alliance.

Doncaster Self Build Development Alliance will source suitable land for development and bring together public and private investment to enable residents to build their own homes. This will create an area of Doncaster that looks like nothing that has come before.



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