

# **Our plan to put pride back into our city, unleash Southend's potential and end the coalition of chaos**

**The Southend Conservatives Manifesto for  
the Southend City Council elections on  
4th May 2023**



**Southend Conservatives**

# A personal message from the Southend Conservative Group Leader

*Dear Resident*

The past four years have been an extremely difficult time for Southend.

This Labour-led Administration, propped up by the Independents and the Lib Dems, has provided nothing except chaos, infighting and wasteful spending on things like: £10 million of public money on the Seaway car park project which is economically unviable and over £15 Million spent on consultants and agency staff.

The Administration has admitted that the Council will go bust within two years if we carry on. We do not have to go on like this. Together, we can implement our vision to rectify the damage and make Southend prosper. Southend needs a majority Administration to rebuild and deliver its priorities. You can help end the chaos with your vote.

We will stop the building of 7,000 homes on the Green Belt, provide cheaper parking, scrap the Seaway project, keep the Queensway road underpass open and get the finances under control.

Let's work together to put the past four years behind us where Southend has stagnated and build a brighter, safer, and prosperous future for all. On 4th May, please vote for Southend Conservatives so we can end the wasteful spending, stop the harmful policies, and unleash Southend's potential.

*Tony Cox*



**Cllr Tony Cox**

Leader of the Southend Conservative Group



## Our pledges to you:

# Cleaning up our democracy and increasing transparency...

- ✔ **We will:** Ensure residents and stakeholders are meaningfully consulted and take their views into account before major projects are undertaken.
- ✔ **We will:** Review all Council joint ventures following the fiasco of the Better Queensway and school transport contracts.
- ✔ **We will:** Maintain the highest levels of openness and transparency and ensure all possible decisions will be made in public.
- ✔ **We will:** Respect all decisions taken by the Council and stop the practice of a single councillor overturning a democratic vote.
- ✔ **We will:** Create local forums so portfolio holders can consult and pursue ideas with businesses, residents associations and key stakeholders.
- ✔ **We will:** Never undertake projects which are economically unviable and put the Council at financial risk.
- ✔ **We will:** Always ensure that all decisions taken by the Council are lawful and never put the Council at risk of legal challenges.
- ✔ **We will:** End the culture of Council officers taking key decisions in isolation and ensure accountability of officers working in the Council.
- ✔ **We will:** Ensure all residents complaints to the Council are answered honestly, truthfully and in a timely manner.
- ✔ **We will:** Never take or delay taking decisions which end up costing taxpayers millions and put the Council's finances at risk.

# Caring and providing for our community...

- ✔ **We will:** Create a portfolio for Special Educational Needs, Disability, Children and Learning.
- ✔ **We will:** Provide care for our most vulnerable and ensure dignity in old age.
- ✔ **We will:** Ensure that every child has the best possible start in life and has the opportunity to attend a good or outstanding school.
- ✔ **We will:** Improve support for children with Special Educational Needs and ensure that every child has the best possible start in life.
- ✔ **We will:** Unlike the current Administration we will never victim shame, trivialise mental health, abuse or ridicule SEND parents.
- ✔ **We will:** Stop the shameful practice of SEND parents coming to the Council for help having safeguarding procedures used on them.
- ✔ **We will:** Work positively with the new Integrated Care Partnership to deliver better care and health support for our residents.

## Our pledges to you:

# Protecting our green spaces and the environment...

- ✔ **We will:** Retain a weekly waste collection service for all residents and increase recycling rates across the city.
- ✔ **We will:** Stop the planned building of over 7,000 homes on the Green Belt.
- ✔ **We will:** Increase the number of electric vehicle charging points across the City.
- ✔ **We will:** Plant new trees and shrubs and maintain our parkland and grass verges.
- ✔ **We will:** Clean our street signs and replace broken signs and railings promptly to improve our street scene.
- ✔ **We will:** Remove all parking charges in our parks car parks and never introduce parking charges in our parks.
- ✔ **We will:** Continue to oppose the cargo night flights from Southend Airport and monitor all future Airport expansion.
- ✔ **We will:** Abolish the current Labour-led, Administration's planned 'Toilet Tax' for charging to use public toilets.

# Protect our heritage and investing in sports, arts and our culture...

- ✔ **We will:** Work to re-open the Kursaal for people to once again enjoy.
- ✔ **We will:** Bring events to the city for families to enjoy to help boost our hospitality and leisure sector and embrace physical activity.
- ✔ **We will:** Continue to invest in the Pier which is the 'jewel in Southend's crown' and ensure that the future of the Pier Museum is secured.
- ✔ **We will:** Extend the Conservation Area in Hamlet Court Road to incorporate the southern area.
- ✔ **We will:** Ensure that the Jazz Centre UK will remain at the Beecroft Gallery.
- ✔ **We will:** Protect our conservation areas across the city and ensure all issues in the Garrison Conservation Area are resolved

## Our pledges to you:

# Improving our transport and keeping Southend moving...

- ✔ **We will:** Stop the closure of the Queensway road Underpass to avoid the predicted chaos in the city.
- ✔ **We will:** End the anti-car policies of the current Administration and create more seafront parking.
- ✔ **We will:** Provide cheaper parking by scrapping the 6pm-9pm charges on the seafront and the transaction fee for using the parking app.
- ✔ **We will:** Never install speed humps in residential roads without full consultation and the support of local residents.
- ✔ **We will:** Scrap all plans for 15 minute/low traffic neighbourhoods where planters block roads or fines are issued for leaving our neighbourhood.
- ✔ **We will:** Scrap the planned use of £10 Million of public money for the economically unviable Seaway Car Park scheme.
- ✔ **We will:** Fill every pot hole reported to the Council and invest in our roads and footpaths.
- ✔ **We will:** Improve signage to all major destinations and attractions in the city and erect new signage to signpost visitors to our beaches.
- ✔ **We will:** Create segregated cycle paths to join the whole of the seafront and support the safe passing of cyclists campaign.
- ✔ **We will:** Continue to oppose the 85,000 mud trucks using our roads to deliver soil to the Gunners Park development.

# Ensuring a decent home for everyone...

- ✔ **We will:** Make sure that all our Council housing stock continues to meet the Decent Homes Standard.
- ✔ **We will:** Require all new Council built homes to be carbon neutral.
- ✔ **We will:** Continue to build more Council housing and affordable homes in appropriate areas.
- ✔ **We will:** Never support inappropriate development and we will ensure all developments have appropriate infrastructure.
- ✔ **We will:** Invest all right to buy receipts into building new Council housing.



## Our pledges to you:

# Bringing life and vibrancy back to the High Street...

- ✔ **We will:** Put free car parking in roads off the High Street by removing unnecessary yellow lines.
- ✔ **We will:** Create an environment that attracts quality shops and business to the area and make the High Street a place people want to come to.
- ✔ **We will:** Bid for Government funding and grants to improve the High Street.
- ✔ **We will:** Remove the barriers within the Council that prevent businesses from investing in the High Street and our city.
- ✔ **We will:** Make the High Street a 'go to' and safe destination and environment.
- ✔ **We will:** Develop long term plans for the Council owned Victoria Shopping Centre.

# Creating a safer Southend by improving community safety...

- ✔ **We will:** Give powers to the Police and Council Officers to tackle anti-social behaviour across the city.
- ✔ **We will:** Restore the broken relationship between the Council and the Police.
- ✔ **We will:** Consult with the city's traders and businesses on any road closures on the seafront for crime and anti-social behaviour reasons.
- ✔ **We will:** Expand the Community Safety Team with volunteers and provide full training and equipment.
- ✔ **We will:** Take action to stop the constant illegal traveller encampments.
- ✔ **We will:** Restore our street lights to full power that the Administration dimmed in secret and proposed to dim them further.

# Southend City Council Elections

Thursday 4th May 2023



Southend Conservatives