

# Liberal Democrat Administration Budget 2022/23

## *Delivering on people's priorities, getting the basics right and giving residents in Hull a fair deal.*

In May 2022, the people of Hull elected a Liberal Democrat Administration. The Administration are working hard to deliver on the people's priorities and get the basics right.

This year's budget will see people's priorities of a cleaner, greener and safer city made a reality by a Lib Dem administration, despite the adverse national circumstances. The public of Hull have been clear what their concerns are, from the state of the roads, how safe they feel in the area and how clean their neighbourhoods are. Under this administration the council will be making a difference to what are the public's concerns.

And what a difference already. A huge investment to make our neighbourhoods cleaner and greener, a brand new set of crime-fighting cash and action to make Hull's roads and high streets a better place for all. A council that listens to its communities and puts their interests first.

Everyone knows that the Council has lost millions of pounds in Conservative Government funding cuts. That Conservative Government just doesn't care about Hull.

The cost of living crisis is affecting each and every one of us. This Lib Dem administration is proud to be doing our bit to support those who need it most, whether it is through a network of warm spaces, support for food banks, a cost of living family fund or free school meals. This budget commits to even more of this work and will help to protect thousands of families and pensioners across the city from the worst extremes of this crisis.

Hull's hardworking residents need a Council that will fight their corner all year round, one that works for them; with this budget, we're working towards a cleaner, greener and safer city, one which gives everyone a fair deal to get on in life.

## **Hull - a cleaner, greener and safer city**

*A planned £1,000,000 Spring Clean programme, £100,000 Pocket Parks Fund and a £500,000 Crime Prevention Fund.*

Residents across the city have made their voices heard loud and clear - they want our city to be cleaner and tidier with more done to tackle fly-tipping, graffiti and littering. They want to feel safe in their communities. And they want green spaces to cherish and enjoy.

This administration has listened and now the Council will deliver.

One of the top priorities for the residents of Hull is the state of their neighbourhood. We will put that priority front and centre of this budget, with a massive planned £1million investment in a new "Spring Clean Programme" which will deploy services to clean up our city.

This new approach will get started straight away - and in a way that makes a long-lasting impact on Hull's communities. This isn't just about a quick clean-up - this is about an in-depth thorough look at the fabric of neighbourhoods. Fixing broken streets, and signage, mending potholes and removing dirt and mess.

We want to work with the local community, support them and see them as part of the solution. That's why this approach will maximise community involvement and engagement. There's a lot of work to do and we're excited to get started.

We know, too, that there is more that can be done to improve the state of the city's parks and open spaces.

The pandemic has taught even more of Hull's citizens just how vital our parks are, and how important it is to treasure and develop them.

Under our administration, there will be major investment, with a new £100,000 pocket park fund put in place to create exciting, new community facilities in the heart of local neighbourhoods. We want to give communities somewhere they can enjoy with their family near to them, and where they want it.

Finally, in achieving our pledge of a cleaner, greener and safer city, we are making this council one that fights crime.

The Crime Prevention Fund, introduced towards the end of 2022, has seen new money available for the community to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour issues in their area. We know it can do more - which is why we are doubling the fund to £500,000. What a contrast to the previous administration - who axed the previous funding altogether. This will give communities across the city access to the funds they need to tackle anti-social behaviour, burglaries and so much more.

## **Building a strong, prosperous city with communities at its heart**

*Attracting jobs and investment to our city, helping community high streets with a £1,500,000 High Streets Support Fund and helping families through the cost of living crisis.*

It's vital for the future of our city that both our local high streets and the city centre succeed and flourish.

The city centre is a focal point for many people who work in the city, and those people who go there for leisure and pleasure. As an administration, we will continue to work hard to make the city centre a success, working with Hull BID and the many small, medium and large businesses that are so vital to our city's economy.

The bold new vision for the city's western docklands that we've unveiled, and will take forward in the next financial year, shows we're ambitious to regenerate our city centre and attract jobs and investment. We're engaging with the city's business community like never before, and making sure they know we're here to help them grow and invest.

But we are also very clear that Hull isn't just the city centre.

The city's many community high streets were a lifeline to local communities during the coronavirus lockdowns, and are often the base for developing small businesses. They need support to help them thrive. Under our budget, that is exactly what they will get.

We are creating a new £1,500,000 High Streets Support Fund to help local neighbourhood centres be the best they can be. This fund will support a range of measures to improve the look and feel of our community high streets, to give confidence to shoppers and local traders and make them a great place for start-up businesses to invest and grow.

Whilst we're doing more and more to support our local economy to build and grow, the stark reality is that we're living through a national cost of living crisis that is hitting individuals and families across our city hard. We know the buck ultimately stops with the Government.

Whilst we've been clear that the Government must act to tackle this crisis, we've also been clear we won't stand idly by whilst people need help. We've been working night and day to support the residents of Hull as they live through it in the here and now.

We brought forward a whole series of measures over the last year and we will be continuing to build and grow that support through this budget.

As an administration, we're incredibly proud that the initial investment of £10,000 made by the Leader of the Council has brought in over £100,000 in matched funding from supportive businesses and organisations across the city. Working with our partners at the Children's University we've launched something which is making a huge difference to families struggling through hard times. It's a great example of strong local leadership and partnership working across the city delivering real results for people who need it.

The cost of living crisis shows no signs of going away soon, so nor will our support. We're going to continue our cost of living funding, that has seen access to warm spaces, our support for the city's food banks and much more.

## **A fair deal on health, education and housing**

### *Fighting for local health services, our children's education and for safer homes.*

We know this Council has a duty to support local people and their services that despite failures from the Government, millions of pounds will keep our city and our services moving.

This budget will help support children across the city and the Council staff who have worked tirelessly to deliver an improved Ofsted rating. We know young people are the future of our city and this administration will continue to do everything it can to help them achieve their full potential.

Our local health services are struggling more than ever. Both health and social care services in the city are being desperately let down. This winter we have seen A&E in crisis, our ambulance service in crisis and adult social care struggle under the pressure. This budget commits to doing all we can to work with our health partners and support some of the city's most vulnerable.

Health inequality is rife in the city and the council can play a huge role with its partners in reducing this by tackling deprivation, jobs, environment, access and housing.

Everyone in this city deserves to have a place to call home. As part of our administration, we are committed to tackling homelessness and supporting Council tenants. We know people in Hull have been let down by years of neglect and housing is no exemption. This budget is committed to improving support for Council tenants with committed funding to tackle maintenance and new energy-saving measures.

This administration is also clamping down on rogue private landlords who have let homes become riddled with inhumane conditions and left without support.

The administration will crack down on the minority of rogue landlords and take enforcement action against those who are not fulfilling their duties to their tenants, including to invest in the Supported Accommodation Review Team. We take the Council's responsibilities as a social landlord very seriously, just as we believe the Council a responsibility to all residents regardless of housing tenure.

## **An Administration that listens and delivers on Hull's roads**

*An additional £525,000 for roads and £100,000 into our footpaths.*

One of the first actions this Liberal Democrat administration took was to ask people's views in what turned into the biggest consultation on Hull's road network the city has ever seen. Our transport survey generated over 22,000 responses - and we hear loud and clear what the people said.

Now, this Administration is getting to work to make changes that work for everyone in the city, and respect the views of the people who live here.

We've set out plans to change Freetown Way back to two lanes, we're using new technology to manage Hull's transport network and we'll be reviewing the use of all-day bus lanes.

We're also fully committed to supporting the bus companies to improve services for residents. We will work with others on greener sustainable travel and work with people who use the city's bus services, cycle routes and shared cars on making the improvements needed. Working with Hull's transport providers to make a shared timetable and integrated ticketing will be a challenge for the coming year for this administration and will get Hull moving again.

To support this change, we are also investing in Hull's road and footpath network with £625,000 of new money.

Of this new money, we are investing £125,000 extra (doubling existing funding) to make our roads safer for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike, as well as improvements for off road cycle paths.

We also know that we have to make this city a better place for cycling and cyclists. The Transport survey indicated that people wanted more off-road paths and we're prioritising that as the way forward.

Finally, one of the biggest issues with our streets is broken and run-down footpaths. So many streets in the city are in dire need of a revamp and more support. We know that and in this budget, we plan to deliver an extra £100,000 to repair, maintain and protect broken footpaths in our communities.

Delivering better roads and footpaths is a must for this administration and this budget will do just that with millions of pounds of funding.

## **A bold plan and a vision for the future**

*This is a budget that delivers for Hull - with a vision that will move our city forward.*

This budget - the result of many months of work from a dedicated and hard-working team - continues the tough job of changing the organisation into one that puts the views and priorities of the people who live here at the heart of everything it does.

Change on this scale doesn't happen overnight. Problems that have taken a decade to build up won't be fixed overnight. But we will deliver that change.

We will continue to build a listening council - the Community Strategy is a core part of that approach and one that will guide the council for years to come.

This budget understands the need to support Hull's residents when there is a cost of living crisis, building on the support already in place through warm spaces, additional support for food banks and directly to families during the holidays.

This is a budget that will help clean up Hull's streets. It will see the city get the sort of cleaning up it has long needed and help those communities in the future too.

This is a budget that will see more investment in crime prevention, working with communities to tackle problems in our area - in the way they want to see it done.

This is a budget that will see our vital community high streets improved - a budget for the whole of the city, not just certain parts.

This is a budget that puts the priorities of Hull first, from a council that's here to serve.

This is a budget that delivers for Hull with a vision that will move our city forward.