

SECURING OUR FUTURE A PLAN FOR COVENTRY

Our five year plan for Coventry
Vote Conservative on 6 May 2021



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A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COVENTRY CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Dear Resident

During the last year the country has been through a difficult time. My wife and I both contracted Covid-19 so I know first-hand what a terrible condition it is. I know I'm not alone and many people will have suffered from Covid-19 either directly or indirectly.

As I write, the fight against the pandemic rages on as the vaccine gives us hope of a return to some normality. There will come a time, soon, when we need to rebuild. But it is not enough to rebuild, we must build back better.

In this manifesto we've set out how we will do that. Our ambitious five year plan will put public health at the heart of everything we do and we will nurture the city's financial health too. We won't be able to do this on our own, but we will work in partnership with business, the Government, the Mayor of the West Midlands and yes even the Labour opposition in Coventry.

I am confident that before too long the sun will be shining once more. But we have a lot of work to do to build our better world. Speaking as a Coventrian, I have never been more determined to roll my sleeves up and fight for our city than I am now. So I urge you to join with us and fight for the change we so desperately need.

Will you join us?

Gary Ridley



Councillor Gary Ridley

CLLR GARY RIDLEY
CONSERVATIVE GROUP LEADER, COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL

RECOVERING FROM CORONAVIRUS

HOW WE'LL BUILD BACK BETTER IN COVENTRY:

- We'll tackle health inequality and improve access to sports facilities
- We will fight pollution and green the city
- We will prioritise job creation aiming to deliver a new 'Gigafactory' creating 4,000 jobs

During the lockdown the nation's health has undoubtedly suffered. Many people may be less active today than they were a year ago, medical conditions may have gone undiagnosed and it may have been harder for some to control addictive behaviour. There will be a range of mental health problems, like anxiety and depression, to confront too.

The Council will be at the heart of the response to this as the body responsible for public health. So a Conservative-led Council will prioritise resources for the public health team to improve the city's health. We will work with the NHS and other health care providers to ensure we are able to signpost people to the services they need.

But there is also another foe which we must defeat once and for all - health inequality. It is a scandal that people in the city's wealthier areas can live, on average, ten years longer than those in deprived areas. The fight back must start with childhood obesity. The Commonwealth Games present a clear opportunity to build a lasting legacy of increased participation in sport.

So a Conservative-led Council will work with the Mayor of the West Midlands to maximise the benefits of the games in our city. We will also undertake a full audit and review of our city's sporting facilities to ensure everyone has the opportunity to access them, especially those in deprived areas.

Finally, it's time we tackled poor air quality

once and for all. Nationally, it is responsible for 40,000 deaths every year and Coventry has been identified as a pollution hotspot. The Government has provided millions to tackle this problem but our local Council could do more. They have been slow to make use of funds such as the Emergency Active Travel Fund and their suggestion to close Coundon Road was unimaginative and unhelpful.

Throughout this document we will outline an ambitions programme to make our busses all electric, open three new train stations and roll-out more cycle lanes. We will defend the greenbelt and set out an ambitious programme to green our city.

Finally, Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on our economy. Despite enormous and unprecedented support from the Government, there have inevitably been job losses. Our challenge is to build our economy back better than it was before so that everyone can succeed. So, we will work with partners to maximise the benefits from 'next generation' technology.

A prime example is the opportunity offered by autonomous and electric vehicles. The Conservative Government has pledged support of £1bn over the next ten years to support a 'Gigafactory' manufacturing car batteries. If we are successful in our bid to bring it to the city we could create up to 4,000 jobs in locally. So we will work closely with partners to make this happen and make the Coventry Airport site available for this opportunity.

MANAGING SOUND PUBLIC FINANCES

HOW WE'LL BALANCE THE BOOKS IN COVENTRY:

- We will produce a balanced budget and have already identified nearly £2.5 million in savings for Council services over the next five years
- We'll reduce the amount of money paid out in Councillors' allowances
- We will introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy raising additional revenue

Like many local authorities Coventry has faced significant pressures on its budget as a result of Covid-19 but it has stayed afloat thanks to a £56m grant from the Government.

However, Labour has been found wanting when it comes to their management of local finances. They've squandered millions on a number of 'get rich quick' schemes then blame the Government because they have no money.

One example of this is the purchase of Coombe Abbey Hotel, which has required multiple bail outs in the last year and has seen £3m wiped off the value of its shares.

They have borrowed to fund many of these projects racking up debts that Coventrians are liable for. Every year, the Council now spends £11m on interest payments alone. Funds which could have been used to provide services to the people of Coventry.

Why is it there's always enough money to fund these schemes but they wouldn't provide Plas Dol-y-Moch with £150,000 to keep it afloat during the pandemic?

This isn't right and it doesn't have to be this way. So we will produce a balanced budget and prioritise debt reduction over these risky schemes. We've already identified savings of nearly £2.5 million which we will plough back into service delivery over the next five years.

These savings start with the taxpayers money Labour gives to the trades unions every

year. It is scandalous that public money is being used to support organisations that are aligned to the Labour Party.

We'll also reduce the amount of money paid out to Councillors by abolishing 'do nothing' deputy cabinet members. We will also reduce the size of the cabinet from ten to eight.

In the longer-term, we will explore the feasibility of working with other local authorities to deliver back room functions such as HR, payroll and procurement services more efficiently. These efficiencies will drive savings which will be directed back to service delivery. We will also introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy so that developers pay their share back into the city.

We will continue to lobby the Government to change the business rates regime to include students' landlords and HMOs in business rates the same as any other business. This would generate an additional £8.5m for the city every year.

Just as we did in control, we'll reduce council tax rises. We'll also be more transparent than Labour, producing an annual report showing how tax has been spent. This will be included in council tax demands.

We'll introduce an ethical investment policy so the Council can't hoard taxpayers money in questionable offshore accounts. We will also work with the West Midlands Pension Fund to ensure assets are invested ethically.

REGENERATING OUR CITY

HOW WE'LL SHAPE COVENTRY'S FUTURE:

- We will support our city centre retailers by providing free late night parking and turnover based rents
- We will develop a truly mixed economy in the city centre providing space to make Coventry the number one destination for start-up IT companies
- Introduce a Challenge Fund for the local high street

With support from the Government, the Council has never had so much money to invest in regeneration. All of the public realm improvements you see are only possible thanks to the Conservative Government. This has given us a chance to reboot our ailing city centre which has been in decline for some time with more and more empty shops becoming the norm.

Sadly the coronavirus pandemic has made this task even more difficult. Many people have taken to shopping online during the lockdown. Some argue that this was beginning to happen anyway, but only time will tell if the changes in the retail sector will become a permanent shift. But if nothing else, this period has demonstrated that our city centre needs to be more diverse in what it does.

We don't claim to have all the answers to the kind of shift you only see every 50-100 years! Regeneration of the city centre will be one of our top priorities so we'll review Labour's overall approach with some immediate changes. For instance, we'll consult retailers on turnover based rents and entice more shoppers by providing free late night parking. We'll run a 'best dressed shopfront' competition for Council tenants with a week's free rent for the winner. We'll also stick with plans to re-open the River Sherbourne and improve the public realm.

In a more diverse city centre, we still believe there is an opportunity to make Coventry the number one destination for start-up IT

companies in the UK. Our aim is to build the next Silicon Valley, creating jobs and wealth. So we will make space available within the city centre and Friargate area to make this happen.

The Council is one of the largest landlords in the city centre which allows the organisation to exert great influence over the direction the city takes. This has also enabled the Council to share in the success of its tenants during the good times. So we'll support further property acquisition when it's in the interests of the taxpayer. However, we will stay away from the risky schemes which the private sector has deemed unviable.

It's also vital that we remember local shopping centres like the high street in Earlsdon or The Parade in Cheylesmore. So we'll work with the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, to identify appropriate support from the Government. We will also set up our own High Street Challenge Fund which will allow district shopping centres to bid for match funding. These grants will fund a range of improvements to the high street and could include anything from flower tubs to Christmas and Diwali decorations.

Finally, a good internet connection has never been more important. And whatever the future holds, this is unlikely to change. So we'll work with telecoms providers to ensure the smooth roll out of high speed broadband across the city. And we won't be afraid to hold them to account, especially when they leave pavements in a mess.

DELIVERING HOUSING FOR MODERN COVENTRY

HOW WE'LL IMPROVE HOUSING:

- Conservatives will defend the greenbelt and carry out a full and detailed housing needs assessment to direct the kind of housing being built
- We'll bring more of the 2,500 empty homes back into use using new powers
- We will introduce an 'Article 4 Direction' to prevent them being converted into student accommodation

It's more important than ever to deliver new housing in Coventry - but they must be the right homes in the right places. Once the greenbelt's gone, it's gone forever and building huge five bedroom homes on the greenbelt will not solve the housing crisis or give young people the start they need. Especially when so many existing family homes are being converted into student accommodation.

So we will carry out a full housing needs assessment to determine what kind of properties are required and where. We will adopt a 'brownfield first' approach to development to save our greenbelt and look to make better use of existing housing stock.

Figures show there are over 2,500 empty homes in Coventry which equates to 1% of the entire housing stock. This isn't acceptable and we'll make every effort to bring them back into use. If needed, we will enact Empty Dwelling Management Orders allowing the Council to take control if owners can't be traced.

We've also seen Labour stand by as more and more family homes are converted into student accommodation. This has coincided with numerous purpose-built student developments across Coventry. Recently some of these have been converted to 'normal' accommodation because of a drop in demand for due to Covid-19.

Nobody is sure what the world will look like after the pandemic so now is the time to hit pause and review the market. Have we now got

too much student accommodation and if so, how do we restore the balance?

Whatever the outcome of that review, we will bring forward an 'Article 4 Direction' to protect family homes. This removes certain permitted development rights and makes it harder to turn family homes into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HIMOs). Other local authorities have done this, including our neighbours in Warwick, so why won't Labour in Coventry?

Another way to free up family housing would be to support our older citizens to downsize should they wish. This can be a better option for some residents and helps younger families too. So we will undertake a comprehensive review to understand the main barriers to downsizing for older residents. We will also work with partners to ensure the delivery of a second older people's village in the city.

We also support calls from registered social landlords to introduce a new 'housing court'. On average possession cases can currently take up to 42 weeks to resolve. A dedicated housing court would speed up this process and ensure that cases are dealt with sensitively and compassionately by people who have experience and knowledge in this field.

Finally we'll work with the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, to deliver the 'Housing First' initiative. This programme is helping to tackle homelessness by providing clients with a roof over their head and supporting them to rebuild their lives one step at a time.

CELEBRATING CULTURE IN OUR DIVERSE CITY

WE'LL EMBRACE OUR CULTURE BY:

- Finding a permanent home for the Coventry Police Museum
- Building a memorial to the victims, and survivors, of the Coventry Blitz as part of our regeneration plans
- Re-introducing the ancient role of Town Crier so we can shout about our achievements!

Coventry has an amazing story to tell. From boomtown to recession, war to peace and reconciliation. Now, not for the first time, a global pandemic. It's fair to say that 2020 has been a more difficult chapter in our history. But just like our ancestors, we've seen each other through it all. Despite the pandemic, there will be better days ahead.

Our year as City of Culture has brought even more Government investment into the city and presents us with a unique opportunity to showcase the city on a national stage. But it will pass quickly so we must ensure we build a lasting legacy from the year. That starts with creating a favourable perception among visitors so they return and tell others about their experience. That's why Labour's tourist tax is a terrible idea. Charging visitors to use facilities which are free to Coventrians creates an impression that visitors are not welcome and could put them off coming back.

One of the first victims of this policy was the Godiva Festival - then Labour decided to charge everyone. The UK's largest free festival is no longer free. In fact you're being asked to pay for it twice. First in your council tax and then on the door. A Conservative administration will reverse Labour's tourist tax and review charging at the Godiva Festival. We will have an honest conversation with the people of Coventry about what the festival should be and how it is funded.

Labour has also demonstrated complete indifference to our heritage. In doing so, they

have shown they can't be trusted to protect it. They recently blocked Conservative plans to relocate the Coventry Police Museum to the IKEA building as part of a new cultural initiative. This could now result in it being shipped off to Birmingham when the Little Park Street Police Station closes. They have also failed to make the most of our connections with key historical figures like author George Eliot and John Kemp Starley who invented the modern bicycle.

As we look forward to a better future we should respect our past and traditions. So a Conservative-led Council will protect the Coventry Police Museum by finding it a permanent home. And we will work with the George Eliot fellowship to celebrate her life and achievements. We will also build a memorial to the victims, and survivors, of the Coventry Blitz as part of the regeneration of the city centre so that future generations remember the sacrifices made by many brave Coventrians.

We will protect the city's historic Council House and Guildhall, ensuring they remain in public ownership. And we will examine ways to make them more accessible to citizens. We will also reintroduce the ancient role of Town Crier so we can shout about our great city during our year as City of Culture and beyond.

Finally, to mark our re-emergence as a truly independent nation we will fly the union flag at the Council House 365 days a year. Our flag and our precious union are both things to be proud of and we will stand up to those who seek to divide us.

TAKING PRIDE IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

WE'LL IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT BY:

- Fighting the plastic pandemic with a plastic bottle recycling scheme
- Testing the market to ensure our bin collection service is the best it can be
- Declaring a climate emergency and appoint a dedicated Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

In one way or another environmental issues affect us all. Perhaps understandably, over the last year the focus has been on Covid-19. But the truth is we are facing a plastic pandemic as well. We've all seen the horrific tales about where much of it ends up. In many cases it will remain in the sea for thousands of years - it may even enter the food chain.

Conservative Councillors have organised and supported resident-led litter picks but we need to do more. So a Conservative Council will consult the public on the introduction of a plastic bottle recycling scheme. We will also look closely at other local authorities who are using CCTV to issue fines to litterbugs.

There might be less waste on our streets if the bins were collected on time. Every year we experience the same backlog after Christmas and even throughout the year in some areas. Labour has no response to this because they don't want to upset their paymasters in the trades unions.

A Conservative-led Council would bring a fresh perspective to this problem. We would look closely at neighbouring authorities, like Warwick where refuse is collected at Christmas. We would also test the market to ensure we are getting the best deal.

Technology has a part to play in making our collection teams more efficient too. So we'll roll out 'smart-bins' across the city centre. These bins tell operatives when they're full, freeing them up to tackle other jobs.

On climate change, this failing Labour administration talks a good game but their actions tell a different story. For instance, they've promised to deliver a 'Coventry Forest' by planting a tree for every resident but what about the thousands of trees being destroyed on the greenbelt?

A Conservative administration will take this seriously. Within the first 100 days, we will declare a climate emergency and appoint a Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability - a position which existed under the previous Conservative administration.

Then we will review the efficacy of the Council's existing strategy and involve the public in a meaningful conversation about the way forward. There are a number of short-term actions that we can take, such as protecting the greenbelt. We will also pledge to plant a tree for every new-born baby in the city. Many of these will be in the city centre and they will breathe new life into our city. But we will also work with local schools to come up with a range of campaigns and competitions to inspire the city's future leaders.

Finally, we'll use our influence with our neighbours to protect shared greenspace. Particularly the Meriden Gap which separates us from the Birmingham conurbation. So we'll use the Council's shareholding in Birmingham Airport to oppose the construction of an expensive, and unnecessary, second runway.

GETTING COVENTRY MOVING

WE'LL IMPROVE OUR TRANSPORT NETWORK BY:

- Pursuing the opening of three new railway stations in Coventry
- Spend an extra £1m on highways improvements and pot hole repairs
- Spend an extra £0.7m on road safety improvements and 20mph zones

In 2019 we outlined our intention to explore the feasibility of additional railway stations in Coventry. Since then we have secured the support of the Council and the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street. Work is now taking place to move these proposals forward in Coundon, Binley and Foleshill. We've achieved this as an opposition group, so imagine what we could do in control?

If the Council are serious about getting people out of their cars then a move from road to rail has to be part of the solution. However, bus travel is a more viable option for some people. So a Conservative administration will protect Pool Meadow Bus Station from closure and study the opportunities to refurbish and improve it. Thanks to funding of £50m from the Government secured through our Mayor Andy Street, we are in a position to ensure that all of the city's busses are electric by 2025.

For many people cycling and walking are the preferred way to ditch the car. Our proposal to deliver a dedicated north-south cycle route in Coundon was accepted by the Council but more off-road provision is still needed to encourage people that cycling is a safe form of travel. So we will look at further schemes like the one in Coundon and we will explore the feasibility of a 'park and cycle' scheme for those who can't give up the car completely.

Quality road surfaces are important for cyclists and drivers alike. Sadly after a decade of underinvestment by this failing Labour administration they are looking worse for wear.

So to improve the quality of the network we will invest an extra £1m in highway improvements and pot hole repairs over the next five years. We'll also look at a highways sponsorship programme to raise extra cash for their maintenance. It's been successful on the city's roundabouts so why not extend the scheme?

Those same highways have been used by fewer cars with the country in lockdown for much of the last year. However, with more road space and stretched police resources some motorists have taken this as an opportunity to drive irresponsibly. Sadly, this Labour administration is failing to tackle this problem and they frequently promise schemes that they just don't deliver.

For instance, they promised a range of 20mph zones in residential areas years ago, so where are they? We will deliver these schemes and we will back other safety schemes where there is public support for them. This isn't an idle promise, we've already earmarked £0.7m for these projects over the next five years.

Finally, hundreds, if not thousands, of Coventrians have been wrongly fined due to inadequate signage in the city centre. The Council should listen to people who raise concerns about signage rather than dismiss them. So we will set up a new transport user's forum bringing together operators, the Council and the Combined Authority. This will empower people to come forward with suggestions to improve the highway network and public transport.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

WE'LL HELP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BY:

- Protect Plas Dol-y-Moch as an education-led facility for children in Coventry
- Implementing the recommendations from the OFSTED inspection to improve Children's Services
- We will review school's admissions to bring it into line with neighbouring authorities which will give parents greater choice as to the school and/or type of school that they wish to send their child to

One of the most important duties of the Council is to provide help to vulnerable children when they need it most. Sadly at times the Council hasn't lived up to this requirement. After years of Labour rule Children's Services still requires improvement according to OFSTED. We will give staff the resources, and freedom, they need to change this. And we will hold them to account if necessary.

Turning to education, the Council has a duty to those who are in school today. However, for too long they've been let down by Labour's dogmatic approach to academies and free schools. A Conservative Council will review school's admissions to bring it into line with neighbouring authorities. This will give parents greater choice as to the school and/or type of school that they wish to send their child to.

We'll encourage schools to have particular strengths or specialisms which can be shared with other schools in the locality. We will ensure that there is a greater say for school communities (parents/carers, pupils and staff) in the day to day running of a school, with more support and help for those school communities who need it.

We will strive to make Coventry healthier and work hard to reduce health inequalities and variation in life expectancy across the city. That work starts with young people and we will strengthen the role of schools in promoting health for young people.

We will ensure that Coventry City Council is a family friendly employer setting a good example to other employers. We will make flexible working available and hold employee forums with senior Councillors and officers to develop ideas to make the organisation more family friendly.

We will also ensure the Council maximises the opportunities for young people to advance their career. We'll do this by reviewing and enhancing the range of apprenticeships offered by the City Council. We'll also support and encourage the 'Mayor's Mentor's' scheme led by the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street.

Finally, everyone in our city has some memory of Plas Dol-y-Moch. They may have gone there, or will know someone who did. Or they may be a parent who sent a child. Many will recently have been shocked to discover Labour has been planning to restructure it in secret. In February, they even blocked a Conservative proposal to provide it with extra funding to save resident teachers from the sack.

A Conservative-led Council will protect Plas Dol-y-Moch, thus ensuring the integrity of outdoor education. We will do this by ensuring the centre is led by resident qualified teachers who are outdoor education specialists. If necessary we will reverse any decisions that Labour has taken to compromise this.

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

WE'LL BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES BY:

- Encouraging and supporting community groups to take ownership of land or buildings by giving advice, funding to test ideas and sharing knowledge
- Restoring ward forums where residents want them
- Consulting residents on a move to all-out elections every four years instead of electing a third of the council in three out of four years

Our communities are at their strongest when we allow them to work together and live up to their potential. So we'll encourage and support community groups who wish to take on land or buildings by giving them advice and funding to test ideas.

We will also increase community involvement in the running of parks and green spaces by creating more friends groups. We also think it should be easier to organise community events like the Allesley Village Festival or the Earsldon Festival, the Finham Festival or the Bannerbrook Park summer fete. There are too many examples of bureaucracy stifling the good intentions of our residents and it has to end.

We support the principle of devolution and will involve residents in decision making at every opportunity. Starting with the restoration of ward forums where residents want them. Until the pandemic is over we will look at holding 'digital ward forums' to get the ball rolling. We will also go a stage further and consider new parish councils where there is a clear demand from the public.

If we are serious about involving residents in the decision making process we must address the elephant in the room. Let's face it, local election turnout is poor. Often as many as seven out of ten voters abstain. There can be no doubt this calls into question the legitimacy of local politicians and the decisions taken by them. Research tells us that this, in part, is due to a breakdown of trust in politicians and a lack of faith in their ability to change anything.

A Conservative-led Council will implement initiatives to tackle this. Firstly, we will consult residents on a move to all-out elections every four years instead of electing a third of the Council every other year. This costly and complicated process is costing the taxpayer a small fortune and is difficult to explain, let alone justify. This could make local elections genuinely count as residents will have the chance to elect a new administration at every election.

Secondly, we need to restore faith in politics and that starts with accountability and engagement. So unlike Labour, we will involve the opposition in the 'scrutiny' process putting them in control of at least one panel.

We recognise that crime, and the fear of crime, are a key concern for local communities. So we welcome the Government's commitment to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers. As a Conservative administration we will challenge the Police and Crime Commissioner (currently held by Labour) to ensure Coventry gets its share of these new recruits.

Finally, we will also support regular liaison meetings between residents groups and the police. This will help to improve information sharing and help to reassure communities. Conservative Councillors will also support the speed watch scheme, enabling the public to play a role in the detection of offenders.

THE CHOICE AT THIS ELECTION



CONSERVATIVES	LABOUR
<p>Conservatives will produce a balanced budget and end wasteful spending. We will direct a minimum of nearly £2.5m towards frontline service delivery over the next five years.</p>	<p>Labour has wasted millions on get rich quick schemes like Coombe Abbey Hotel. Now crippling interest payments on the Council's debts exceed £11m every year.</p>
<p>Conservatives will spend an extra £0.7m on road safety initiatives and 20mph zones over the next five years.</p>	<p>Labour's policy is to not intervene until someone is seriously hurt. They recently blocked additional funding on road safety schemes.</p>
<p>Conservatives will reduce the wage bill for Councillors. We'll achieve this by shrinking the size of the Cabinet and axing 'do-nothing' deputy cabinet members altogether.</p>	<p>Labour ignored the findings of an independent pay review. They reduced recommended allowances for some Conservative members and increased it for other Labour members.</p>
<p>Conservatives will defend our green spaces from inappropriate development.</p>	<p>Labour enthusiastically approved development on huge areas of greenbelt in Coventry. They recently announced thousands more houses on the greenbelt on top of previous plans.</p>
<p>We will build on the legacy of the City of Culture and protect our heritage. That starts with finding a new home for the Coventry Police Museum.</p>	<p>Labour has failed to make the most of our historical links to figures like George Eliot and John Kemp Starley. They've also blocked plans to save the Coventry Police Museum.</p>
<p>Conservatives will review the overall need for student accommodation and introduce an 'Article 4 Direction' to protect family homes from conversion into student HIMOs</p>	<p>Labour has given the green light to more and more student properties without protecting family homes. This has damaged communities and put pressure on the greenbelt.</p>
<p>Conservatives will invest an extra £1m in our highways and pot hole repairs over the next five years. We'll also explore the feasibility of a highways sponsorship programme to raise additional funds.</p>	<p>Our city's roads have reached crisis point and last year the RAC slammed the Council for their approach to repairs. Roads have become a serious pot hole in Labour's record.</p>
<p>We will test the market to ensure we are providing the best possible refuse collection service.</p>	<p>Labour has presided over a crisis in rubbish collection which always seems to happen over Christmas and the winter months. This has to change.</p>
<p>We will protect Plas Dol-y-Moch as an education-led facility for children in Coventry. If necessary we will reverse any decisions taken by Labour to achieve this.</p>	<p>Labour tried to sack resident teachers in secret and voted against extra funding to keep them in place.</p>