

New Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Line-up
PRESS RELEASE
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Councillor Anne Western, today announced the first major change to her cabinet line-up since Labour took control of the council in May 2013.

She said the new-look cabinet has the skills and experience to focus on the tough choices needed to tackle £157million of Government cuts, to fight for a fairer funding deal nationally, and to bring more investment and jobs to Derbyshire.

The cabinet will also support Councillor Anne Western as she works with other council leaders across Derby and Derbyshire to bring all 10 councils together to make best use of money, improve transport, boost the local economy and to campaign for locally devolved powers.

The new cabinet line-up will include:

- Councillor Paul Smith as **Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**
- Councillor Dean Collins as **Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure**

They will join Leader Councillor Anne Western, who is adding economic development to her Cabinet role as Cabinet Member for Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget, Councillor Dave Allen, who will continue as Cabinet Member for Health and Communities, Councillor Kevin Gillott who is continuing as Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Councillor Andy Botham who has just taken up the role of Cabinet Member for Council Services after Councillor Brian Ridgway stood down last week for health reasons.

Councillor Paul Smith will also take on the role of Deputy Leader of the council.

Councillors Joan Dixon and Clare Neill have chosen to leave the cabinet and focus on political campaigning for a fairer deal and more funding for Derbyshire and Councillor Kevin Gillott, who is standing for election as MP next year, has resigned his Deputy Leader post. He will continue in his role as Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Overall the number of cabinet and deputy cabinet members remains the same.

Councillor Anne Western said:

"With local and national elections around the corner, the county council needs to be ready whatever the outcome, so this is a good time to re-shape the cabinet. The new team is equipped with the skills and experience needed to tackle the unrelenting Government cuts to local services whilst also being forward-thinking and ambitious for the future of Derbyshire.

"I would like to give my sincere thanks to Councillors Clare Neill, Brian Ridgway and Joan Dixon as they leave the cabinet. I have valued their tireless work and support over the past 18 months and I look forward to continuing to work with them as dedicated county councillors representing the people of their electoral divisions."

She added:

"Despite the enormous challenges of the past 18 months, I am very proud of what we have achieved."

"We are putting the council's own house in order by looking at every penny we spend, we're using our land and buildings to bring money in, and we're cutting the number of senior managers to save £2m every year.

"We're also doing everything we can to try to minimise the effects of these massive Government cuts on local people by using one-off money from our reserves and by finding ways of doing things better and more efficiently.

"Despite this backdrop of unrelenting cuts, our children's services were recently rated among the best in the country by government inspectors from Ofsted.

"We've also recognised the cost of living pressures people are facing and have frozen school meals prices, supported credit unions and food banks as well as bringing new jobs to Markham Vale and supporting more apprentices."

The new line-up of cabinet members will also support Councillor Anne Western in her new national role at the Local Government Association championing the importance of county and district council areas and arguing for devolution from central Government to county/district combined authorities, such as the one being developed in Derby and Derbyshire.

Councillor Anne Western said:

"A Combined Authority isn't a merger – it's a legal agreement that means councils can work as one body in the key areas of economic development, regeneration and transport to avoid duplication, speed up decision-making and bid for Government and EU money."

She added:

"The Combined Authority is also central to our strategy to campaign to devolve more powers from Whitehall to Derby and Derbyshire, to help the county claim its rightful place nationally and to let local people have more power to decide how money is spent in our own communities."

The new council cabinet line-up is:

Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget

- Councillor Anne Western, Cabinet Member and Council Leader
- Councillor Ron Mihaly, Deputy Cabinet Member

Children and Young People

- Councillor Kevin Gillott, Cabinet Member
- Councillor Jim Coyle, Deputy Cabinet Member
- Councillor Damien Greenhalgh, Deputy Cabinet Member

Highways, Transport and Infrastructure

- Councillor Dean Collins, Cabinet Member
- Councillor John Owen, Deputy Cabinet Member
- Councillor Trevor Southerd, Deputy Cabinet Member

Health and Communities

- Councillor Dave Allen, Cabinet Member
- Councillor Ellie Wilcox, Deputy Cabinet Member
- Councillor Julie Hill, Deputy Cabinet Member

Adult Social Care

- Councillor Paul Smith, Cabinet Member and Deputy Council Leader
- Councillor Paul Jones, Deputy Cabinet Member
- Councillor Rob Davison, Deputy Cabinet Member
- Council Services
- Councillor Andy Botham, Cabinet Member