



**ROS JONES FOR MAYOR**  
LEADING DONCASTER'S RECOVERY

# Ros Jones

## My Plan to Lead Doncaster's Recovery

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 Labour

## **Contents**

Let's Restart our Recovery, together.	<b>3</b>
Ros Jones, Doncaster's own	<b>4</b>
A Track Record to be proud of	<b>4</b>
Leading Doncaster out of crisis	<b>5</b>
A Journey	<b>5</b>
Leading Our Recovery – the right Leader for Doncaster	<b>6</b>
My Plan	<b>8</b>
My Pledges to you	<b>8</b>
My Priorities for 2021 - 2025	<b>9</b>
A Greener Doncaster	<b>9</b>
A Stronger Doncaster	<b>11</b>
Doncaster open for business	<b>12</b>
A Safer Doncaster	<b>13</b>
A Healthier Doncaster	<b>15</b>
Getting Doncaster Moving	<b>16</b>
A Future Doncaster	<b>17</b>
Welcome to Doncaster – a great place to live, work and visit	<b>18</b>
A Borough back on its feet	<b>19</b>

## Let's Restart our Recovery, together.

*When I first became Mayor in 2013, I took over a local authority in chaos. Government had placed Doncaster Council in special measures and our children's services were failing.*

*For the last eight years Doncaster has been on a journey, a difficult journey of recovery whilst dealing with annual cuts to funding and increased demand for services.*

*As I write, Doncaster is in a different place: a council modernised, a borough changed for the better, making the most of its second chance. Eight years of my leadership, and a shared Team Doncaster vision has created a borough that welcomes international events such as the Tour De Yorkshire, has one of the most popular visitor attractions in the North, the Yorkshire Wildlife Park; and now has a brilliant education and training offer. We have attracted significant private sector businesses to Doncaster, creating new jobs and opportunities for our residents. We are building more private and social housing, levels not seen in Doncaster for a generation, and improving our parks and green spaces supported by fantastic volunteers.*

*Then this virus hit us all. Coronavirus put life as we know it on hold and has taken many lives. Each life lost is someone's friend or family member. We must honour and remember them by doing all we can to protect others from infection, whilst also supporting our local businesses as restrictions are eased following the third national lock-down.*

*We must pick up the pieces, to recover both our economy and as a society. We can, and we will do this **Together**. This plan tells the story of how far we have come in a short space of time and my proposed way forward, where we recover **Together**, rebuild jobs and businesses **Together**, and re-start our lives. **Together**.*

*I'm proud to be from Doncaster, to represent and speak for the whole Doncaster borough.*

*Our next journey must face the new challenges of Covid recovery, keeping the virus at bay, improving health, reducing inequalities, and adapting our lives to head-off the climate crisis. Big changes lie ahead. Join me, and be part of it.*

*I would welcome your support to be your Mayor once more, on 6 May 2021.*



**Ros Jones**  
**Labour candidate for Doncaster Mayor**



## Ros Jones, Doncaster's own

Born in Askern, Doncaster, Ros worked as a chartered accountant in local government and the NHS.

Elected Mayor in 2013, Doncaster became the first authority to have both a woman Mayor and woman Chief Executive.

A keen runner, Ros' charity runs have included a marathon to raise funds for the Doncaster Baby unit. Ros has even thrown herself out a plane for good causes! She did a sky-dive to raise money for Help for Heroes and Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust.

In 2016, Ros Jones was awarded a CBE for her contribution to local government.

## A Track Record to be proud of

During Ros Jones' period as Mayor of Doncaster:

- ✓ Restored the reputation of Doncaster Council as a competent local authority.
- ✓ Supported business growth in Doncaster – with 3,000 new enterprises created prior to the pandemic.
- ✓ Built over 1,000 homes in her first term and made major upgrades to 13,500 social homes since 2015.
- ✓ Worked with private enterprise to create successful employment sites across the borough, including the iPort which employed over 2,000 people before coronavirus.
- ✓ Partnered with the police to restore neighbourhood policing teams across the borough and created new teams to crack down on fly-tipping.
- ✓ Overseen a significant improvement in children services.
- ✓ Achieved the gold standard for support for veterans as part of the Military Covenant.
- ✓ Created a welcoming, pedestrian-friendly Doncaster station forecourt.
- ✓ Developed Doncaster as a visitor destination, with events like the Toure De Yorkshire, Doncaster Pride, specialist markets, and the expansion of the Yorkshire Wildlife Park.
- ✓ Has invested in protecting our woodlands, parks and green spaces, flood prevention and alleviation, and set up a commission to report on the climate emergency.

## Leading Doncaster out of crisis

### What is meant by Government cuts?

Before 2010, around two thirds of council spending was funded by the Government.

By 2019 due to funding cuts, the spending power of a typical council fell by 22p for every £1 it had to spend ten years ago.

Doncaster was hit harder, losing 29p for every £1,  
**a cut of £350 per resident.**

Ros Jones has been an exceptional Mayor.

In 2013, as the newly elected Mayor, she inherited a Council that was dysfunctional, placed in "special measures" by the Government. Ros led Doncaster out of special measures a year ahead of schedule.

She has led Doncaster, despite being badly let down by successive Conservative Governments, who decided to reduce support for councils especially in the North, far more than council's in Conservative southern heartlands. As a result, Doncaster Council had to make harsh cuts because of the huge loss of Government funding.

But Ros Jones, modernised Doncaster Council and turned its performance around. In the eight years Ros has been Mayor, Doncaster has gone from strength to strength.

### A Journey

Doncaster is on a journey. Once the home of the Mallard and the Flying Scotsman and the base of the Vulcan bomber; the borough is now the home of Hitachi Rail fitting our Azuma trains; and Doncaster Sheffield Airport with international flights.

Doncaster is renewing itself with new jobs, new business parks, new colleges, new homes.

With Ros Jones as Doncaster's Mayor, Doncaster has gone from strength to strength.

With your support, Ros Jones will lead Doncaster's recovery after this terrible coronavirus crisis.

## Leading Our Recovery – the right Leader for Doncaster

After two terms as Mayor, Doncaster council is stable and improving, once the worst of the pandemic is behind us Doncaster will again go from strength to strength.

The whole country is living through a historic shock, the most serious pandemic in our lifetime. The worldwide response is on a par with war time. After lockdowns and continued restrictions to reduce the spread of this deadly virus, Doncaster's businesses, big and small, need to recover and we need to plan for a new Doncaster.

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### Says Ros Jones:

*“Leading our recovery, our goals for Doncaster have had to change. I want a safer, stronger, cleaner and greener Doncaster - that remains the same.*

*“But I’m determined to lead a borough that does everything we can to limit this virus, prevent its spread, and keep you and your loved ones safe.*

*“A healthy Doncaster is also a safer place to live. And we can all support that.”*

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We will never forget this time. How could we? Doncaster's residents have lost friends and family members, taken too soon by a virus no one had heard of 18 months ago. A virus that some believed to be a seasonal flu but, in the past 12 months, has proved to be far more deadly.

Mayor Ros Jones has led Doncaster's response to Covid-19, followed the science, trusting health professionals and making the difficult, but necessary, decisions to protect the people of Doncaster. Ros has also ensured the NHS and partners involved in the response to coronavirus had the full support and resources from Doncaster Council, ensuring the response from day 1 has been a Team Doncaster effort.

Doncaster has fast-tracked financial support to small businesses during the crisis.

During the first lockdown in March 2020, the Government announced 2 new grants to be given to businesses. In Doncaster, we paid, **5,419** grants to a total value of **£58million**.

From 14 October new local and national lockdown restrictions for businesses were required. By the end of February, we had paid a further **12,850** grants to a total value of **£27million**.

So in the past year, businesses in Doncaster have been supported with **18,269** grant awards to a total value of **£85million**.

Ros Jones has encouraged Government to provide business rate relief to support retail, hospitality and leisure businesses and children's nurseries. At the end of February, relief of over **£40million** has been awarded.

In July 2020, Ros Jones launched her Restart, Recovery and Renewal Plan.

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**Says Ros Jones:**

*“Our motto has been “be steadfast”. Local people have trusted the council to be steadfast throughout the pandemic, to help those who are struggling, and to go the extra mile to protect lives and livelihoods.*

*“I’m proud of the NHS, its staff, and all those council staff and key workers on the frontline. They have helped us through, and I’m sure that effort will continue.*

*“And I know that we will be able to trust the people to back my Doncaster plan to Recover and Restart.”*

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## My Plan

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### Says Ros Jones:

*"My vision for Doncaster - To help us restart, get life back to normal, build up jobs again and enjoy our lives once more in a safer, stronger, cleaner and greener Doncaster. We can bounce back. We have done it before. We can do it again. We will do it **together!**"*

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## My Pledges to you

### 1. **Let's Vaccinate Doncaster.**

Lead a campaign to offer vaccination to every adult by end of July. Re-open our economy and society safely.

### 2. **Restart and recovery.**

Support local high streets, local firms and local people. Better jobs by improving skills.

### 3. **Safer Doncaster.**

Rapid response anti-fly-tipping teams. Enhanced CCTV and Enforcement. Support local police teams. Crackdown on drugs and antisocial behaviour.

### 4. **Million tree challenge.**

1 million new trees in ten years. Borough-wide "future parks." £100million on new warmer council houses.

### 5. **Get Doncaster moving.**

Pothole response teams. Rail station upgrades. Dedicated cycle ways. More electric vehicle charging points.

### 6. **No one left behind.**

Protecting older citizens, backing our veterans. Laptops and catch-up classes for children.

## My Priorities for 2021 - 2025

### A Greener Doncaster

In September 2019 Doncaster Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, soon after Mayor Ros Jones launched the Climate Commission. The report has now been published and sets out ambitious proposals for Doncaster to reach 'net-zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

In Doncaster we have already started on this, with renewing our streetlights, to both save money and reduce energy use, purchasing electric fleet vehicles, energy creation initiatives on council owned property and planting more trees across the borough of Doncaster.

It's not just about planting more trees, it's also about creating more green spaces, creating 'Green Hearts' in our town centres and creating 'Green Gateways' into our borough. The recent lockdowns encouraged more of us to enjoy our local, natural environment on a regular basis. We are charged with creating a happy and healthy borough for generations to come. We must deal with the climate crisis head on.

This will be a partnership effort, with landowners both large and small across the borough.

In Doncaster, I will plant at least a million trees over the next 10 years. These will need to be the right trees and in the right place. And I expect this figure to be matched by the contribution of others – the biggest investment in new woodland in the past century.

We will green our town centres, expand our existing woodlands, create new woodland both large and small. We will support the creation of a 'Great Yorkshire Fen' to build on the moorlands and wetlands we are so proud of.

The recent floods of 2019 and near flooding in early 2021 has highlighted that we must act fast in order to both reduce the likelihood of flooding and to reduce the potential impacts of flooding.

## #Milliontreechallenge

**1 million new trees in ten years.**

**Green hearts in every town.**

**Active future parks across the borough. Back local volunteers.**

## Greening Doncaster

We will:

- ✓ Our *Million Tree Challenge* will see over a million trees planted over the next ten years.
- ✓ Green hearts into every town
- ✓ Continue to modernise the council fleet, purchase more electric vehicles and phase out existing models, Our ambition is to have a zero emissions fleet
- ✓ Creating 15 Future Parks to enhance the active use of existing green spaces across the borough – a £3million partnership with Sport England.

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### Says Ros Jones:

*“Nature has given humankind ample warning of the impending crisis, from receding arctic ice to flooding on our doorsteps.*

*“We cannot ignore our impact on the world around us any longer. We have a moral duty to act.*

*“For many of us, the restrictions of lockdown made us appreciate our parks, green spaces and even our own gardens more than ever.*

*“I am determined to put a Green Heart into every town and village across this borough, as part of our 1 million tree challenge.”*

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## A Stronger Doncaster

### Beating the Virus

We are fully behind the fantastic work of our NHS frontline staff who have been vaccinating local people.

Under my leadership, Doncaster Council has opened leisure centres and provided staff and resources to support the vaccination programme, and promoted the **#LetsVaccinateDoncaster** campaign to boost take-up.

By mid-April, 165,000 people had been vaccinated in Doncaster. We are determined to support this effort until every adult in Doncaster has been offered the vaccine, which we aim to complete in July.

**#Let'sVaccinateDoncaster**

**Lead a campaign to offer vaccination to every adult by end of July.**

## Doncaster open for business

### #Restartandrecovery

**Attract new jobs. Support local firms. Create new business parks.**

My plan is to protect jobs and create new job opportunities and improve wages in Doncaster. We have developed some great new business areas, linked to the motorway network – prime sites for the location of new firms. The iPort, DN7, Capitol Park, Doncaster has some of the biggest employment parks in South Yorkshire, thanks to Labour.

Ros Jones will develop Masterplans for Thorne, Edlington, Mexborough, Rossington and the Airport.

Doncaster's strength is its many communities, from Clayton in the North-West, to Thorne in the North-East, Bawtry in the South-East and Micklebring in the South-West. We know that many small businesses, and home-based businesses have been hit hard. I am on your side.

#### Made in Doncaster

Doncaster has a proud history of manufacturing – from the Flying Scotsman to the cables that support the London 2012 Olympic Stadium. We have attracted major manufacturers, like Hitachi Rail, and supported local manufacturers to expand, like Omega's £20million expansion at Thorne's capitol Park.

Our plan to rebuild jobs in Doncaster is central to our *Doncaster Growing Together* plan.

We want Doncaster to be a great place to **live, learn, work, and enjoy**.

We will:

- ✓ Launch a task-force with Doncaster Chamber, focussing on Covid recovery, new low-carbon industry and bringing manufacturing back to Doncaster
- ✓ Create masterplans for our principle towns, to revitalise our town centres and high-streets, with a mix of residential, cultural, leisure, retail, modern office spaces and premises for small & medium enterprise to support our high-streets.

## A Safer Doncaster

Over the last ten years, South Yorkshire Police has seen a reduction in Police Officers of nearly 1,000 due to continued government funding cuts. There are now 20% fewer police officers on our streets.

Reductions in police officers have put a strain on council neighbourhood teams.

As Mayor, I have increased the number of enforcement officers and approved more CCTV to combat anti-social behaviour.

### #SaferDoncaster

**Rapid response anti-fly-tipping teams.**

**Seize quad bikes used illegally.**

**Dedicated staff to support local police teams.**

### Cleaner Streets, safer neighbourhoods

There is no excuse for fly-tipping. I have a **zero-tolerance** approach to crime, anti-social behaviour, littering and fly-tipping.

Fly-tipping and littering is a disgusting criminal act of environmental and social vandalism.

Doncaster Council will continue to use the full power of the law to tackle littering & fly tipping, including the maximum penalty for fly-tipping of £400. It is up to the courts to hand out larger fines and custodial sentences.

We will continue to lobby government for more powers and tougher sentences, the only way to tackle fly-tipping head on is in collaboration between local councils, Government, the courts, and the police.

I will continue to support the seizure and destruction of vehicles used for fly-tipping and I will increase staffing capacity, so that we have rapid response teams to both enforce and clean-up fly-tipping.

**Quad bikes.** Used legally for recreation or as working vehicles, quad bikes are no problem. Used illegally to trespass, cause damage and alarm or to support organised crime – they are a menace. Working with South Yorkshire Police, we will continue to track down and seize illegally-used quad bikes and press for further powers from government to help the community halt this problem.

## **Planning & Preparation for Potential flooding**

The changing climate is already making extreme weather more common. We have drier summers, and warmer, wetter winters. Sudden storms, and flash flooding are more frequent threats. We must be prepared and ready for action at a moments notice.

### **Flooding more often**

**Doncaster faces major flooding in**

**2007 | 2011 | 2019.**

**In January, Doncaster's rapid response team monitored the River Don and local becks at over 100 points, issued over 40,000 sandbags and prepared for the worst.**

**This time we were lucky, but we are ever ready!**

## A Healthier Doncaster

This pandemic has shown that if we are not healthy, we are more vulnerable to this virus. Encouraging Doncaster people to live healthier lives and to improve their health is vital.

### Healthier Schools

Our plan for healthier schools includes:

- ✓ All primary schools to walk the Daily Mile.
- ✓ New parking schemes to reduce congestion around schools, and encourage parents and children to walk the final leg of their trip to school.
- ✓ A Healthy Child programme – to tackle obesity and food poverty.
- ✓ Promoting our healthy eating programmes in schools.

### Healthy People

- ✓ Supporting strong public health programmes, including flu vaccinations, drug interventions, sexual health, smoking cessation and tackling obesity.
- ✓ Investing in our swimming pools, leisure centres and gyms to provide the people of Doncaster with leisure services to help them live healthier and happier lives.
- ✓ Developing active travel, encouraging use of our parks and green spaces for leisure and activity as part of our Future Parks programme.
- ✓ Manage our local track and trace system to help break the cycle of coronavirus infections.

### Continue to Lobby government for a new Hospital for Doncaster

The Coronavirus Pandemic has further exacerbated and highlighted the health inequalities within our society, this on top of an aging population and many deprived communities in Doncaster.

In addition, Doncaster's main hospital is not suitable for the present and future demands on it. Doncaster needs a new hospital, a centrally based facility that can provide the 21st century healthcare that the people of Doncaster need and deserve.

Such investment is vitally needed as the existing facility has one of the largest maintenance backlogs in the country totalling £67m (based on 2018/19 figures) and faces very high demands on its services. Even prior to COVID, for example, the A&E department which was built to manage a peak of 200-250 patients was routinely dealing with 350-400 every day.

The proposed new hospital will also act as a catalyst to regenerate Doncaster. It will stimulate economic activity, provide a teaching hospital to train the doctors and nurses of tomorrow and act as an anchor as the beating heart of the town. In short, the case for investment is very strong.

We urge government to support our bid to build a new hospital in Doncaster, and to provide the necessary funding to make this a reality.

## Getting Doncaster Moving

### #GetDoncastermoving

**Pothole response team.**

**Rail station upgrades**

**Dedicated cycle ways.**

**Electric charging points.**

Thanks to Labour, Doncaster has one of the best transport interchanges in Yorkshire; 9 Park & Rides; bus corridors through our principal towns and into Doncaster Town Centre.

Working with council leaders across South Yorkshire, I have bid for significant funding to support active travel and rail station improvement, I have an ambitious plan that will see over £33 million invested into Doncaster as part of our bid to the Transforming Cities Fund. This will create new cycleways, improving walkways, improving bus journey times and making our train stations easier to access.

As part of this plan there will be targeted investment of over £2.5 million upgrading local railway stations in Adwick, Bentley, Conisbrough, Kirk Sandall, Mexborough and Stainforth to improve access, car & cycle parking, signage, lighting and CCTV.

Our road network is in need of serious investment, in Doncaster we have roughly £150 million of highways works in need of funding, government provided Doncaster Council with just £5 million for highways repairs for 2021/22, it is clear that government will not properly fund our highways. Now we have access to some South Yorkshire Gain-Share funding, I want to see significant improvements in our highway infrastructure, I will continue to lobby government for more highways funding and bid for available funds.

### **High Speed Rail – HS2**

The existing route is far from ideal. Indeed, the Meadowhall route would have provided some benefit to Doncaster and not lead to the blight currently being faced by certain Doncaster neighbourhoods.

Even if approved by government, the full eastern leg of HS2 will not open for many years and it will not address the vital improvements required now to our existing rail network.

For the government to achieve the 'levelling-up' agenda and deliver real benefits to communities across the north, they need to focus investment on local and regional connectivity, along with decarbonisation and improvement of the existing network including our high-speed East Coast Main Line and stations.

I will continue to stand up for Doncaster residents and communities who are still seeking clarity, I want to see the current blight lifted and the focus being on investing in our existing network and on local and regional connectivity.

## A Future Doncaster

Our way of life, how we live, travel, heat our homes, is all set to change. The Climate Emergency demands that we take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. What has this to do with Doncaster? Everything.

We aim for Doncaster's homes and businesses to create no more carbon than we can offset. Our aim is to achieve this by 2040 to play our part in the national effort.

### What we have done so far

To date, we have:

- ✓ Made improvements to 13,500 homes in the last five years, from solar panels to external thermal renders and insulation.
- ✓ Created a Climate and Biodiversity Commission
- ✓ Converted former railway lines to become cycleways and footpaths.
- ✓ Opened the Trans-Pennine Trail, linking Doncaster to Hull, Barnsley and Liverpool.
- ✓ Converted colliery tips into new woodland country parks.

## Welcome to Doncaster – a great place to live, work and visit

### Doncaster is changing to create a more welcoming borough for all.

We want:

- ✓ Regeneration of our town centres – creating town centres to be proud of.
- ✓ Events for all. Putting Doncaster on the world stage. We have hosted the Tour De Yorkshire, international cycling events, continental markets and Doncaster Pride.
- ✓ A great place to visit. Labour has supported the expansion of the Doncaster Racecourse – the home of Britain's oldest classic horse race – the St Leger. Today, our racecourse is a popular venue for exhibitions and has a new Hilton hotel. The Yorkshire Wildlife Park has grown into a one of the North's most popular visitor destinations, with over 750,000 visitors annually.
- ✓ A great place to learn. Doncaster currently provides the strongest educational offer for a generation, with the opening of New College Doncaster, the Doncaster Campus of the Advanced Transport & Infrastructure National College and the new University Technical College. The addition of degree courses at Doncaster College, makes Doncaster a first-rate environment to gain new skills and qualifications. Part of our recovery as a borough will be to ensure not only that people can retrain, but also that children have the opportunity to catch up where they have fallen behind during lockdowns. I will ensure we offer laptops and catch-up classes to assist those the most affected by this setback.

## #No-one left behind

**Protecting older citizens.**

**Backing our veterans.**

**Laptops and catch-up classes for children.**

## A Borough back on its feet

This Recovery Plan presents a clear path to helping Doncaster build on its strengths, its recent investment and successes, in order to move forward as a safer, stronger, cleaner and greener borough.

It is a recovery that must leave no one behind – and that enables everyone to share in our success and to be a part of it.

We will restart and recover. ***Together.***

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ros Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to its right.

**Ros Jones**  
**Labour candidate for Doncaster Mayor**

# **ROS JONES FOR MAYOR**

LEADING DONCASTER'S RECOVERY

 [rosjones4doncastermayor.org.uk](https://rosjones4doncastermayor.org.uk) |  @MayorRos |  MayorRos



Promoted by Chris Taylor on behalf of Ros Jones, both at Balby Labour Hall, Low Road, Doncaster DN4 8PP