

TRANSCRIPT

COUNCILLOR STEVE SIDDONS, on assuming office as Leader of SBC, 7th May 2019.

Thank you, Madam Deputy Mayor.

Can I also welcome everyone here who has not been here before? I hope you have an enjoyable experience in your period of time in office.

The people of the Borough of Scarborough have spoken - a little too loudly for some Councillors, who lost their seats.

Keeping to the same old, old, old for the next four years really won't wash. Electors have voted for major change.

The way this Council worked, and the plans the old Council had for the Borough, must now be reviewed and anything 'Not Fit for Purpose' must be re-thought.

And that doesn't mean tiny tweaks - a Tory Cabinet with a couple of Independents, or a Labour Cabinet with a couple of Independents - and, we agree, that will not deliver for the people of this Borough.

I don't want to buy anyone's allegiance.

I want every Councillor to do what they've been elected to do. And that is to deliver for their electors, the Borough and this Council.

We need new leadership, dedicated to change for the better.

Finally, to get that new leadership, change within the current make-up of the Council will need to stay on it, unless we all make compromises.

I have a plan that delivers to the electorate and will allow *all the Councillors in this Chamber to be part of the decision-making* again; a *plan that uses all Councillors' talents*, not just those in favour with the leadership.

As Leader, I plan to reduce the Cabinet. We have three directors, and my plan will mirror that, with three Portfolio Holders.

I will bring back Committees to match each Portfolio. Committees with purpose, recommending decisions and policy to the Portfolio Holder. All of us working together for the good of the Borough.

These Committees, of course, which have to be in line with the Local Government Act, must be modernised versions of their old predecessors and meet that purpose, efficiently, and timely, with no additional cost to the Council.

I want to trial this model over the coming year and review together whether it is achieving what I envisaged; *shared and collaborative decision making*.

And scrutiny will not disappear.

Good. While resolved *scrutiny by critical friends makes Councils, efficient, effective, and transparent*.

As to new policies and review of old ones...

Most of you will be aware of my Group's Manifesto and some of you stole bits of it during the election to show that.

I hope to bring all those policies to fruition.

But because no Group has a majority, *priority will be down to every member of this Council - not just me*. But the need to review the closure

of public toilets is evident from many of your election leaflets. Many look ready to support a full review of the North Bay agreement, later this year.

I don't plan to nod an extension through after so many disappointments since the original agreement was made.

And the favourite bidder status for Flamingoland, given before we spent four million pounds preparing the old Futurist site, is also a decision we will inherit as a new Council.

We demand its review.

And it's not just projects needing review.

Community involvement and engagement with the public has been lacking. The value for money of our investment in the Open Air Theatre and the Tour de Yorkshire. All great things. Great, great things, but which *ratepayers have to be assured that their hard-earned money is being put to effective use.*

And there are new policies.

We hope you will support policies to bring *more affordable, quality homes for rent and to buy, for our residents.* Policies to raise the quality of life for our residents. Policies to address *urgent climate needs, unnecessary waste and traffic pollution.*

All these things are important.

This is my message to you Councillors.

If you ignore the wishes of the people and try to continue with business as usual, shoring-up a rejected Tory administration, then the electorate will be sorely disappointed and disillusioned with politicians even more.

We have the opportunity to say, *“Out with the old guard; your time is over”*, and herald *a new, more transparent and engaging way to deliver services*.

I want to deliver that for this Borough and hope you do, too.

It's time for change.

Thank you, Madam Deputy.
