



Keep it Local national conference **Wednesday 12 June 2019**

Councillor Nick Forbes, Leader, Newcastle City Council
Keynote speaker



Nick Forbes became Leader of Newcastle City Council in 2011. Nick has made local economic growth a key feature of his council, securing new financial powers by negotiating one of the first round of City Deals with government. He has played a leading role in raising the profile of local government in a time of austerity and has been involved in national lobbying efforts for successive local government finance settlements.

Under Nick's leadership, Newcastle Council has sought to keep it local through the integration of their commissioning and procurement teams and the implementation of community-focused social value policies. The council aims to keep money circulating within their local economy through monitoring and increasing levels of local spend.

Nick is the Leader of Labour in local government, heading up the Local Government Association (LGA) Labour Group, representing the views of more than 6000 Labour Councillors in Westminster. He is currently Senior Vice Chair of the LGA and a member of Labour's National Executive Committee. Nick trained in the NHS and worked as Chief Executive of Involve North East, a regional health charity.