



Betty Higgins 1927 – 2019

Councillor & First woman Leader of City Council

Betty was a huge figure in the labour movement and the Cooperative Party in Nottingham. She was elected as a Labour Councillor to what was then the Manvers Ward in 1971, and held many positions including on the National Executive. She was the **first and only** woman to become Leader of Nottingham City Council serving from 1983-1987 and again from 1991-93. She led the authority in a very pragmatic and constructive way and was always motivated by the people and communities she served. She made sure their voices were heard and was a role model and an inspiration for many Nottingham people. She had the foresight to keep Nottingham City Transport in public ownership and one of her lasting legacies is that NCT is a national award-winning bus company and a key part of our excellent public transport system. She was also recognised as one of the top 100 Women of Substance in Nottingham, for her continuous campaign for women's voices to be heard and to make sure that women were represented in public, civic and community life. She was a great advocate of public service and of the public sector, believing in providing good services to local people and ensuring that services were available when they were needed. She stood down as a Councillor in 2003.