Stronger for East Lothian: 
Protecting Services, 
Supporting Communities & 
Growing the Local Economy

East Lothian Labour Party’s Manifesto for 4 May 2017
Introduction from Cllr Willie Innes

In May 2012, Labour became the biggest party on East Lothian Council and returned to office after five years in opposition. I was honoured to become the Leader of the Council.

We had left the Council in good shape in 2007, with substantial reserves, a well-managed capital programme and carefully thought-out plans for continuing to build on Labour’s many years in office in the county.

The SNP-led administration managed to squander that legacy in just five short years. They tried to buy the 2012 election with an unsustainable and ill-considered capital programme which left East Lothian with the highest debt per head of population of any authority in Scotland.

This reckless financial mismanagement has been made worse by a series of SNP Government cuts to East Lothian’s funding. However, despite the unprecedented financial difficulties that have faced the current Labour-led administration, we have continued to protect vital frontline services and invest in our communities.

This manifesto sets out our plans for continuing the progress we have made over the last five years in the key areas for which the Council is responsible. It is based on the principle that we will only spend what we can afford, but also underpinned by our ongoing commitment to protecting services, supporting communities and growing the local economy.

My promise to East Lothian residents at this election is that we will always protect local services and stand up for local interests.

We will always put East Lothian first.

We will be stronger for East Lothian.

Cllr Willie Innes
Labour Leader of East Lothian Council
Labour – On East Lothian’s Side

Since 2012, Labour-led East Lothian Council has:

- Protected vital frontline council services from SNP funding cuts.
- Introduced the Living Wage for Council staff.
- Invested tens of millions of pounds in extending and improving local schools.
- Opened the innovative East Lothian Works, Hospitality and Tourism Academy, and Construction and Technology Centre to support jobs and training.
- Delivered the £9 million Crookston Care Home and Day Centre facility in Tranent.
- Delivered nursery places for all 3 and 4 year-olds.
- Re-introduced loft conversions and extensions for council tenants.
- Established the East Lothian Poverty Commission to make recommendations on reducing poverty locally.
- Built more council houses than the previous SNP-led administration.
- Refused to accept any prospect of fracking.
- Established Area Partnerships to devolve more decisions and control over budgets to local communities.

SNP - Letting East Lothian Down

Over the last five years the SNP Government has:

- Slashed millions from East Lothian Council’s budget.
- Failed to abolish the council tax as promised and substantially increased the council tax on properties in bands E to H.
- Closed Haddington’s Sheriff and JP Courts and the Fire Service College in Gullane.
- Imposed a target for 10,000 new houses on the county and overturned numerous local planning decisions.
- Removed the county’s traffic wardens, causing parking chaos.
- Failed to deliver the promised new rail station at East Linton.
- Tried to impose a giant industrial energy park at the former Cockenzie power station site.
- Delayed our community hospital and downgraded its services.
- Failed to end overcrowding, delays and cancellations on local rail services.
- Denied local schools any attainment funding for over two years.
Giving our Children the Best Start in Life

We have been working with children and young people, parents, teachers, carers, health professionals and local communities to ensure all our children and young people are given the help and support they need to have the best start in life.

Since 2012 we have:

- Overseen continual improvement in exam results.
- Reached the highest ever level for positive destinations for school-leavers, with 93.5% of young people moving onto education, training and employment.
- Delivered nursery places for all 3 and 4 year-olds.
- Maintained teacher numbers.
- Continued to invest in Support from the Start across the county.
- Extended the range of partner nurseries in East Lothian.
- Completed the building of the new Haddington Infants and St Mary’s Primary School campus in Haddington.
- Opened the new Communication Provision for secondary-aged pupils with autism and communications difficulties at Meadowpark.
- Supported more breakfast and after school clubs to open in local schools.
- Allocated £100,000 through Area Partnerships for each secondary school cluster to invest in reducing the attainment gap.
- Been credited with providing some of the best school sports provision in Scotland.
- Supported parental involvement, including ensuring every school now has a parent council.
- Stopped the transfer of schools management to Midlothian as the previous SNP administration proposed.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Invest £97 million in our schools infrastructure over the next three years.
- Build a new secondary school in Wallyford, and new primary schools at Wallyford, Letham Mains and Craighall.
- Fund extensions or upgrades at local secondary and primary schools as required.
- Carry out a review of the curriculum across all six secondary school to ensure that the needs of young people are met.
- Invest in the Red School, Prestonpans, to increase early years’ provision.
- Build on the success of the Hospitality and Tourism Academy and the Construction and Technology Centre to provide vocational opportunities for even more young people.
- Continue to work with local employers to create more apprenticeships for young people.
- Continue investment in Support from the Start.
- Implement the new county-wide play strategy in nurseries and schools.
- Invest £5.5 million in upgrades to IT systems in schools and across the council.
- Continue to support and develop breakfast, after-school and summer lunch clubs in local schools.
Protecting Vulnerable and Older People

We have prioritised the protection of resources to support and help vulnerable adults and older people to ensure they have access to high quality services and support and are treated with dignity and respect at all times.

Since 2012 we have:

- Established a Health and Social Care Partnership with NHS Lothian.
- Delivered the new state-of-the-art Crookston Care Home and Day Centre facility in Tranent.
- Halted SNP privatisation of home care services.
- Worked with the NHS to secure investment in a £2 million extension at Prestonpans Health Centre, £1.5 million extension at Tranent Medical Centre and a new £2.9 million Day Centre and Medical Practice for Gullane.
- Worked with Capital Credit Union (CCU) to open a credit union office at Aldhammer House in Prestonpans, the first local office in East Lothian.
- Implemented registration for day centres to ensure the best level of service provision.
- Approved a £365,000 improvement plan for East Lothian’s Older People’s Day Centres.
- Established the East Lothian Poverty Commission to explore the root causes of poverty locally and make recommendations to tackle it.
- Kept up the pressure on the SNP Government to begin work on the county’s new community hospital.
- Maintained and enhanced the Council’s Welfare Rights Service.
- Enhanced provision for local Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB).

If we are re-elected we will:

- Continue to invest in adult care services, with additional investment of £1.8 million next year.
- Continue to work with Capital Credit Union to promote the benefits of credit unions and make the service more accessible to local residents.
- Continue to invest in the provision of local CAB services.
- Continue to develop and invest in the Council’s Welfare Rights Service.
- Produce an action plan to implement the recommendations of the East Lothian Poverty Commission which come under the remit of East Lothian Council.
- Work with the NHS to implement the £2.5 million expansion of Harbours Medical Practice in Cockenzie.
- Implement the Day Centres Improvement Plan.
- Continue to work with NHS Lothian to protect, improve and expand care facilities for older people in East Lothian.
Making East Lothian a Great Place to Live and Supporting our Communities to Flourish

East Lothian is already a great place to live, work and visit. We have invested to support the development of local communities, build new homes, support good quality transport links and give local people more say over where money is spent.

Since 2012 we have:

- Helped bring new and improved bus services to the county.
- Built more council houses than the previous SNP-led administration.
- Re-introduced loft conversions and extensions for council tenants.
- Re-introduced a local traffic enforcement service after the withdrawal of funding for traffic wardens.
- Introduced food waste recycling and increased the overall recycling rate to 52%.
- Produced an Air Quality Plan to tackle pollution in Musselburgh.
- Re-introduced free special uplifts.
- Refused to identify potential sites for fracking in the Local Development Plan.
- Introduced new 20 mile per hour zones where there is public support for them.
- Continued to invest in core paths across the county.
- Invested in sports and leisure facilities, including all-weather arena at Meadowmill, refurbishment of Dunbar Leisure Pool, and re-introduction of bowling in Ormiston.
- Established Local Area Partnerships and devolved more funding and decision-making to these new community-led partnerships.
- Produced a Local Development Plan to meet the SNP Government imposed target for 10,000 new homes, whilst protecting the identity of local communities and delivering more new affordable homes in the future.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Deliver a £144 million package of investment in council housing.
- Deliver 2500 new affordable homes as part of the Local Development Plan, including 2000 council or housing association homes for rent.
- Continue to make progress towards an ambitious 60% recycling rate for the county.
- Invest £27 million in the county’s roads, with £1.3 million on parking improvements.
- Continue to meet our commitment to extending the provision of core paths across East Lothian, including the Drem-Gullane core path, and encourage walking and cycling.
- Work with local bus providers to continue improving services and buses.
- Implement the Air Quality Plan for Musselburgh.
- Increase efforts to enforce penalties for dog fouling and promote the Green Dog Walkers Scheme.
- Commit £2.3 million in funding for protection from coastal erosion and flooding.
- Support the development of Dunbar Station, including new access from the south.
- Extend the number of local charging points for electric vehicles.
- Spend £825,000 on upgrading local sports centres and synthetic pitches, including new pitches at Hallhill in Dunbar.
- Continue to invest in community facilities including the new £1.1 million sports hall in Port Seton, £850,000 on refurbishing Haddington Corn Exchange, £1.1 million in a new community centre in Whitecraig, £400,000 in upgrading the Fletcher Hall, £163,000 on restoring Tranent’s Polson Park and investment in Dunbar’s East Beach and the Fraser Centre project in Tranent.
Growing the Local Economy and Creating Jobs

We have been fully committed to continuing to grow the local economy, boost local job and training opportunities and maximise the county’s potential as a high quality tourist destination.

Since 2012 we have:

- Introduced the innovative jobs and training one-stop shop, East Lothian Works.
- Launched East Lothian Food and Drink Business Improvement District (BID), the first of its kind in the world.
- Increased funding for local festivals.
- Established the ground-breaking Hospitality and Tourism and Construction and Technology Academies in partnership with Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College.
- Launched the Golf Coast Road to maximise revenue from golf tourism.
- Improved opportunities for local businesses to secure access to Council contracts.
- Created new office spaces and industrial units in Haddington and Prestonpans.
- Introduced interest-free loans up to £25,000 for business start-ups.
- Supported several major events in coming to the county to boost tourism.
- Allocated £3.4 million to support the delivery of a new rail station in East Linton.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Invest £14 million over the next three years to grow East Lothian’s economy, boosting the economic performance of the county.
- Dedicate £1.4 million for the development of employment at Gateside in Haddington.
- Invest £1.5 million in town centre regeneration.
- Ensure that the community-led Masterplan maximises opportunities for jobs and apprenticeships at the former Cockenzie power station site.
- Continue to invest in East Lothian Works to ensure the best support possible for local people with jobs and training.
- Work with other partners to secure a Lothians City Deal supporting new jobs and growth at the QMU Innovation Park.
- Continue to invest in the rollout of superfast broadband, including the most rural parts of the county.
- Continue to implement the East Lothian Tourism Action Plan to increase investment in local tourism and support for major events.
- Expand the Spott Road Business and Retail Park in Dunbar to create more local jobs.
- Continue to support the county’s farmers and fishing communities through the food and drink and other initiatives and funding programmes.
- Continue to press the Scottish Government to come up with the balance of funding to deliver the East Linton rail station project.
- Continue to work with the voluntary sector to create and develop local social enterprises.
- Continue to support ‘Shop Local’ promotional activity to encourage residents to shop locally.
East Lothian Labour Councillors – Stronger for East Lothian

Only Labour will put East Lothian first

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