

30 NOVEMBER 2016

“Our Edinburgh”

a European City to be proud of ...



Labour's vision for a modern, Capital City

Printed and promoted by Toni Sword, on behalf of the Edinburgh Labour Party, c/o 78 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9NH.

Edinburgh Labour's *'Draft Manifesto'*

We want to hear from you ...

Back in late 2011, we published a 'draft manifesto' for the last Local Government elections, which took place in May 2012. We received over 1,000 submissions from members of the public in Edinburgh, and re-drafted our final Manifesto as a direct result of that feedback.

We're launching a full 'draft manifesto' again this year, in preparation for the next Local Government Elections in May 2017.

This document thus represents our initial ideas, but as in 2011, we want to hear from you; and we will adjust this draft document, before launching our final Manifesto in March 2017.

This is your chance to directly influence our current thinking, and all the details on how you can do so, and how to contact us, are on the back-page of this document.

We do hope to hear from you!

What changed last time?

As a result of the feedback we received last time, we ensured that several elements of our final 2012 Manifesto were strengthened – and we have now delivered:

- open webcasting of all the main Council Meetings, which are archived and available for scrutiny by everyone
- a Petitions Committee (Chaired by the Opposition) through which members of the public can directly raise local issues
- a revised Audit Committee (again Chaired by the Opposition) which is able to scrutinise key Council decisions and hold those in power to account
- an entirely renewed 'Localities' structure, with much more decision-making power being progressively devolved to local areas and local people
- the use of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in 'Localities', wherein local residents choose their own budget priorities

On much of this, Edinburgh has led the way within Scottish Local Government.

Labour's vision for a modern, Capital City

A new vision for a modern, Capital City

Edinburgh Labour's vision for a modern, European Capital City ...

As a Capital City, Edinburgh is growing rapidly, with an average of 100 new residents coming to live here every single week. That's 5,000 new residents every year, representing a 1% annual growth in our population.

Current projections see Edinburgh becoming Scotland's largest city by the mid 2030's. This is a great success story, but also brings new challenges for the Capital.

But Central Government (and the Scottish Parliament) is **failing to give us the powers we need to cope** with this growth.

We need the current Scottish Government to 'let go' and devolve powers to local areas – for example; if we had the power to raise a 'Tourist Visitor Levy' at local hotels, then we could use those resources to help cope with some of the pressures currently being experienced here in Edinburgh.

Six themes for a modern and successful, European Capital City?

We know that residents are intensely proud of Edinburgh, and value greatly the "quality of life" that's available here in the Capital.

That's why we've taken action to help protect that "quality of life", but we know there's always more to do.

This 'draft manifesto' thus has six themes in the following pages, wherein we'll mention some of the City's achievements – but most importantly, we will also outline our ideas on what we believe we need to do next.

The six themes are:

- Planning for Edinburgh's Growth
- Young People and Education
- Affordable Housing for all
- Care and Compassion in our Society
- Jobs and the Local Economy
- Your Local Environment

Please do have a read through each of these six sections, and let us know what you think - all the details on how to contact us, are on the back-page of this document.

Labour's vision for a modern, Capital City

Planning for Edinburgh's Growth ...



Edinburgh a European Capital

Edinburgh is the Capital City of Scotland – not just a European City, but a Global City ...

... and earlier this year, Edinburgh was acclaimed as the 'British Entrepreneurial City of the Year' - beating Cambridge, Leeds, London and Manchester to the title.

The Capital was judged against four key criteria: quality of life that attracts smart, entrepreneurial people; access to capital and talent; start-up ecosystems and entrepreneurial culture; and access to mentors and support networks.

A vision for Edinburgh in 2050

A city like Edinburgh prides itself on being a fantastic place to live in, to work within, and also to visit. And here in 2016, Edinburgh really is one of the UK's most vibrant and fastest growing cities.

This success, however, does not come without challenges. There are pockets of severe deprivation and inequality in this city and as the population increases, so does pressure placed on infrastructure, health and housing services, the environment and resources. As a city, we need to look ahead to the future and be prepared to adapt, if we are to ensure Edinburgh remains the great city it is today.

Preparing for the future

Over the last 5-years Edinburgh has seen its population grow beyond the 500,000 mark for the first time in its history.

Edinburgh is a compact, liveable City – but to keep it that way in future years, we will need to improve our infrastructure further so we can cope with the increased pressures of economic success and population growth.

Let's keep Edinburgh a European City to be proud of.

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Planning for Edinburgh's Growth ...

... *some priorities for the next 5-years*

Investing in all our futures

Edinburgh is the only Local Authority area in the whole of Scotland with an increasing usage of public transport, walking and cycling – and a decreasing usage of the private car.

We need to keep that trend going for the next 5-years, thus we will:

- continue to invest in all forms of public transport infrastructure, particularly investing in Lothian Buses; and guaranteeing that both Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams remain firmly in public ownership
- seek to ensure the delivery of a 'City Region Deal' for Edinburgh, Lothians, the Borders and Fife – that *deal* to include significant infrastructure funding, and new Housing-powers for local Councils
- continue to prioritise the maximum amount of ongoing Housing development to take place on existing brown-field sites, particularly in the North of the City
- to open up the North of the City, we will expand the Tram to go from York Place, all the way to Newhaven – we will seek to fund this through the 'City Region Deal'
- continue to *protect* the route of Tram Line 1b, to Granton, for possible future delivery
- continue to fund cycle revenue and capital expenditure, at 10% of the overall Transport Budget, for the duration of the next Council Term 2017-2022

We will also separately seek to maximize income from existing Council resources and facilities.



Government changes needed on Planning Policy ...

We will also lobby the Scottish Government to urgently make some long-overdue policy changes:

- to overhaul the planning appeals system that allows for a 'third party right of appeal' without holding up the completion of planning applications and damaging Edinburgh's growth.
- to provide the council with the ability to better protect Edinburgh's green spaces and determine the boundaries of Edinburgh's Green Belt.

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Young People and Education ...



School building programme

Three new high school builds/re-furbishments - Portobello, James Gillespie's and Boroughmuir - are all open, or due to open to pupils.

Design work is also set to begin on St John's RC Primary School, while site options are being examined for St Crispin's Special School.

In total, well over £120million has been invested in our schools infrastructure over the last 5-years.

Attainment at an all-time high

The 2014 Audit Scotland Education report showed that attainment in Edinburgh sits above both our neighbouring authorities and all other major Scottish city authorities, and also that our improvement in attainment over the last 10 years was significantly above the Scottish average.

Edinburgh has also been recognised as leading the way in vital curricular areas such as literacy and its 1+2 Modern Language provision.

On positive destinations Edinburgh has risen from 32nd out of 32 local authorities to sitting above the Scottish average and above all other major cities.

Childcare and Early Years

Nearly £10million has been invested in early years providing 11 new or replaced nurseries across the city.

There has also been an extension of breakfast clubs, ensuring that support for a breakfast club is provided to every school which wants one.

We have also delivered a 'co-operative charter' to better support parent-led and voluntary after school clubs, and help them work together to meet local needs.

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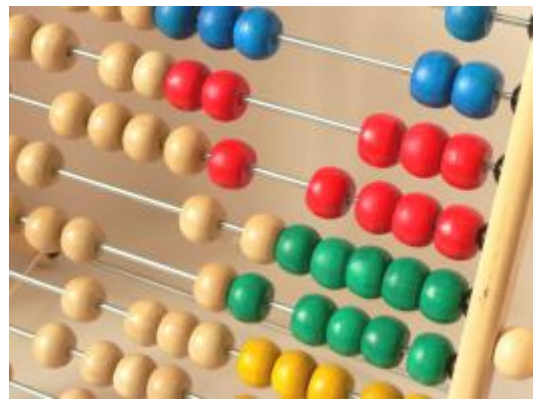
Young People and Education ...

... *some priorities for the next 5-years*

Specialist School Hubs

Edinburgh's schools, and their pupils are doing well – but we need to keep investing in more 'specialist school hubs' to ensure we give all our pupils the best possible start in life.

- we will provide more specialist facilities to ensure our pupils can excel.
- There are already a number of community sports hubs across the city; Broughton High School has a school of music and dance, while Leith has a Confucius Institute specialising in the teaching of Mandarin;
- other schools specialise in vocational courses or are recognised as leading in certain subject areas.
- building on the Council's move to localities (a more localised delivery of services), our partnership working in delivering the senior phase, and our existing sports hubs; we will investigate moves to set up more 'specialist school hubs' in
 - languages
 - science & technology
 - arts & the creative industries
 - and sport... in High Schools right across the city.
- and we will continue to develop our Youth Work Services to support these 'specialist hubs'.



Closing the attainment gap

- we want to ensure that every child reaches their potential, and we want to minimise the effects of poverty and inequality on learning.
- the Council has already started work on a major study into the effect of poverty on education – we will ensure this work is completed and appropriate action taken thereafter.
- and we will review our 'positive action funding' to ensure that it targets the schools most in need of support.

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Affordable Housing for all ...



Housing demand at all-time high

Demand for affordable housing within Edinburgh is continuing to increase as the City grows.

There is no doubt that the Council is pushing at the boundary of what can be achieved through the money currently available – we do have a proud record of Housing delivery ...

... but without additional government subsidy it will be challenging to meet all housing-needs: that's why the 'City Region Deal' is so important.

Proud record of Housing delivery

- 3,552 affordable homes approved since 2012, on brown field sites across every neighbourhood.
- Investment of £490m, generating an estimated £833m in the local and national economies, an estimated 7,448 jobs and bringing in an estimated extra £3.23m in Council Tax.
- £275 million investment in our tenants' homes, around £8,000 per home, over 6,500 new kitchens and bathrooms, over 10,000 homes benefiting from energy efficiency measures (boilers, heating systems, insulation, windows and doors)
- we are rated as in the top 3 landlords nationally, for tenant satisfaction.
- *21st Century Homes* developments recognised with a number of national housing and architectural awards.
- homelessness funding has been protected and we're seeing reduced numbers of homelessness presentations and those who present as having been rough sleeping.
- community benefits are being generated through new contracts and developments; all providing apprenticeships and work placements.

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Affordable Housing for all ...

... *some priorities for the next 5-years*

A strategy for growth

We need to commit to a renewed strategy for growth, specifically around infrastructure and housing ...

... it is thus essential we see delivery of the 'City Region Deal' for Edinburgh, Lothians, the Borders and Fife – that deal to include significant infrastructure funding, and new Housing-powers for local Councils.

With that in place, we will:

- commit to deliver 8,000 new affordable homes over the next ten years and encouraging our Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners to match this, bringing 16,000 affordable homes to Edinburgh in the next decade.
- develop 'Edinburgh Homes' to deliver market leading homes for private rent (encouraging accelerated house building).
- campaign for increased grant for affordable housing.
- pressure land owners and developers to release land/ bring forward development more quickly.
- continue to work with our partners to bring forward public sector sites, in partnership.



A 'City Region Deal' essential

The City Region Deal is a mechanism for accelerating growth by pulling-in significant Government investment.

It is also about greater autonomy and decision making powers for the region, to help us deliver public services more effectively and to tackle inequality and deprivation. Our ambition is to secure +£1bn of funding for the wider region.

We plan to have the Deal agreed with both UK and Scottish Governments by March 2017.

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Care and Compassion in our Society ...



Significant demographic change

Our population isn't just growing in real terms, but is also undergoing very significant 'demographic change' ... more and more people are living well into their 80's.

This is obviously a very good thing, but it does put additional pressure on the 'care services' which the Council is responsible for delivering.

To cope with these changes, we do need to focus more resources in this area.

Coping with an ageing City

Over recent years, we have taken significant steps in order to cope with an ageing City:

- we have established a 'Health and Social Care Partnership' (Integrated Joint Board - IJB), working with NHS Lothian to comply with legislation and bringing other partners (service users, carers, unions, professionals, third sector) to the table, ensuring better informed decisions and richer debate.
- we have adopted a collaborative approach to service redesign and contract renewals, delivering savings while maintaining services.
- we are supporting and developing local initiatives – Dementia Friendly communities, volunteering, LOOPS (local opportunities for older people), all through engagement with the third sector and local communities.
- we provide support for independent living, including a change of ethos to ensure individuals are at the centre of decision making and have major input to the services that they depend on.

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Care and Compassion in our Society *some priorities for the next 5-years*

A joined-up approach to Health and Social Care

To ensure the City copes with the demographic changes which it is undergoing, we will deliver a new series of Care 'Community Hubs' and also:

- Community Links – we will give a further commitment to developing closer community links, more local projects, community pilots to support carers and vulnerable groups who are not using mainstream services.
- Health and Social Care Integration - increased joint working with NHS will present opportunities for innovative service redesign and improved outcomes. We will thus create new services, delivered locally, supported and resourced by the new IJB under a renewed 'Strategic Plan'.
- Supporting the workforce – we will continue to work collaboratively with professionals and workers across health, social care and the third sector to support innovation and remove barriers to joint working.

And we will always keep the individual at the centre of all our work-practices.



Care 'community hubs'

We are committed to delivering 8 'Health and Social Care Community Hubs' across the City.

These Hubs would be physical 'one stop shops' where people can speak directly to professionals in both the voluntary/statutory sector, about all of their health and care needs.

This model is already used in other service-areas, and has proven to be extremely successful.

We would deliver 2 'Health and Social Care Community Hubs' in each Locality Area of the City.

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Jobs and the Local Economy ...



A cultural Capital for all

Edinburgh is the premier festival city in the world, and city of culture with a global reputation. This reputation is evidenced by the steady increase in numbers of visitors to the festivals and the increase in ticketed and non-ticketed sales.

The festivals collectively continue to stimulate almost £300million worth of spend per annum and generate hundreds of jobs and growth.

We must continue to ensure this sector of the economy benefits the whole City.

A local economy for all

The City of Edinburgh Council has made significant strides in recent years, to ensure that our local economy works for everyone in the Capital:

- we have introduced and maintained the Living Wage for all of our employees – leading the rest of the City by positive example
- we settled the long running ‘Equal Pay’ issues within the Local Authority, benefiting thousands of low-paid female employees
- we have introduced and maintained a policy of no compulsory redundancies within our workforce
- and we introduced a robust Whistleblowing Policy, with independent investigative powers

The City routinely receives international recognition of its pre-eminence as a first class place to work and invest:

- Edinburgh was ranked third this year in the widely respected ‘Good Growth for Cities Report’
- and the Readers of ‘European Business Magazine’ voted Edinburgh as the best city to locate your tech business

We need to continue building on these successes.

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Jobs and the Local Economy ...

... some priorities for the next 5-years

Promoting Local Government Reform

As a nation, we need to empower our cities to play a much fuller role in serving their people and stimulating their local economies.

We also need to promote taxation as a positive – quite simply, it’s how civilised societies organise their affairs collectively.

We will therefore press the Scottish Government over the required powers, and seek to introduce the following measures locally:

- abandon the Council Tax freeze
- extend Council Tax banding (if the Tax is not otherwise reformed) to embrace the wealthiest in our society
- allow Council/s full control of Business Rates
- adjust means settlement to allow Council/s full income of taxes generated locally
- introduce the so-called ‘Tourist Visitor Levy’
- introduce a form of Land Taxation on non-residential and non-business property, that isn’t subject to business rates (this is in relation to the management of *land banks*)

We will also press the Scottish Government to introduce a formal ‘Register of Lobbyists’.



Giving local residents a say in their own local economy

We are fully committed to ensuring that local residents have as much say, in their own local areas, as possible – to that end, we will:

- ensure that all active citizens (and also Local Elected Members) can participate fully in improving their lives, and the places that really matter to them, through the Council’s new Localities structures.

We will ensure that this reform is completed within the first 12-months of the new Council.

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Your Local Environment ...



Maintaining our 'quality of life'

Edinburgh is renowned for its *liveability* – its 'quality of life' – it's a compact, green City that is relatively easy to get around ...

... but none of that can be taken for granted, and we do need to continue to protect our green spaces, and to improve our air quality.

We also need to ensure that our open, public spaces are further enhanced and welcoming to all – whether residents or visitors.

And we also need to continue the very successful work, around the development of Edinburgh as a 'Sustainable Food City'.

Protecting our green-spaces

We have very purposely prioritised our local environment, and green-spaces, since 2012 – here are some of the main achievements:

- the number of Green Flag Awards, for our local Parks, has risen from 24 to 29.
- the number of parks attaining or exceeding the Edinburgh's parks quality standard has risen from 121 to 130 – and overall parks quality has risen by 5%
- 88% of allotment holders are satisfied, or very satisfied, with the Council's service; and we remain committed to the delivery of one new allotment site per year.
- 94% of Garden Aid users are satisfied, or very satisfied, with the Council's service, compared to 91% in 2012
- the Council has won a number of national and international awards for its 'Edinburgh in Bloom' activities, notably *Britain in Bloom*, *Entente Florale* and *Eurocities*.
- we set a target of reducing landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes which, due in part, to the diversion of some non recyclable waste as refuse derived fuel (RDF), is now forecast to be achieved in 2015/16.
- there have also been incremental improvements to Edinburgh's recycling rates over the last four years:

Recycling rates	
• 2012/13	37.9%
• 2013/14	38.4%
• 2014/15	39.1%
• 2015/16	45.1%
- in delivering all of this; we have kept the cleansing service in public ownership, and would continue to do so.

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Your Local Environment ...

... some priorities for the next 5-years

Improving the air we breathe

Improving air quality is an absolute priority for the City of Edinburgh – many actions are already in place, such as:

- participation in ECOSTARS, a Europe-wide project recognising cleaner goods and passenger vehicles.
- we are a member of 'Plugged in Places', which has funded the purchase of electric vehicle charging points at park and ride sites, and various Council premises.
- very significant investment in public transport – which has resulted in more people than ever before in Edinburgh using public transport.
- increasing the numbers of people who cycle and walk in our city by increasing our investment in both cycling and walking infrastructure.

But we do need to do more – as air pollution is one of the most significant threats to the 'quality of life' we currently enjoy in our Capital City:

- we will therefore consult on the implementation of Low Emissions Zones (LEZs) for the City
- we will continue to develop quality public realm; and promote vehicle free areas, wherever feasible
- we will also lobby the Scottish Government to devolve powers to Local Authorities, allowing them to :
 - consider the implementation of a 'Workplace Parking Levy'
 - consider the implementation of an 'Emissions Surcharge'
- this will help reduce carbon, across all our activities, so that the national target of <42% is met by 2020



Green energy for all our futures

It's crucial that we promote *green energy*, and we will continue to:

- develop the newly established 'Edinburgh Energy Company'
- support the 'Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative' which raised an investment of £1.4m, and now has solar panels on 24 public buildings – all delivered in partnership with *Energy4all*
- roll out energy efficient white LED lighting across the City.
- promote and develop the 'Climate Change Adaptation Plan', as agreed in partnership with 50 key organisations and groups across the City.

Labour's vision for a modern, Capital City

“Our Edinburgh”

a European City to be proud of ...



These are some of our ideas, but we do want to have a genuine consultation with the residents of Edinburgh.

We'd like to know what you think of our ideas, or give us your own ideas to ensure Edinburgh remains a European City to be proud of.

**Please contact us with your thoughts by:
Tuesday 28th February 2017 ... thank you!**

HOW TO CONTACT US

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