



**SCOTTISH
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

www.scotlibdems.org.uk

Building a Better Edinburgh

**The Liberal Democrat manifesto for
EDINBURGH
for 2012 and beyond**

.. working with you for a better Edinburgh ..

Edinburgh Liberal Democrats working with you to build a better Edinburgh

Liberal Democrats have moved Edinburgh forward in our five years in charge. We have turned around the Council's finances, led the Council successfully through challenging times, listened to what residents want, and made Edinburgh a much better, safer, greener and more democratic place. We have had to take tough decisions but have always put the interests of Edinburgh first.

This manifesto shows some of the ways that we can make Edinburgh even better. We offer you:

- **Better schools, education and life chances for our young people**
- **Better growth, prosperity and quality of life**
- **Better care and protection for our elderly and vulnerable**
- **Better parks, street cleanliness, and regard for the environment**
- **Better neighbourhoods**
- **Better stewardship of resources**
- **Better conditions for business**
- **Better quality of life for all**

Building a Better Edinburgh
Scottish Liberal Democrat Manifesto for Edinburgh
2012-17

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Democracy, Accountability, Stewardship of Finance and Resources | 3 |
| Community Safety | 5 |
| Culture, Leisure, Sport and Festivals | 6 |
| Economic Development | 8 |
| Education, Children and Families | 10 |
| Environment | 13 |
| Health and Social Care | 16 |
| Housing | 18 |
| Planning | 20 |
| Transport and Connectivity | 22 |

Introduction

Building a Better Edinburgh

A record of action... A promise of more...

In May 2007, the Liberal Democrats became the largest party on the City of Edinburgh Council, overturning 23 years of Labour administration that had become remote, impersonal, secretive, arrogant and profligate with your money.

Forming a Liberal Democrat led coalition administration with the SNP, we have provided stable, transparent and sound stewardship of Edinburgh's resources for nearly five years now. Our coalition agreement was based on our 2007 Liberal Democrat Manifesto aims of:- a clean city; a green city; a safe city; an open and democratic city; getting the basics right; providing flexible, quality services for all; having a listening and empowering Council; ensuring schools meet everybody's needs; looking after the vulnerable; caring for our heritage; being a great place to live, work and play; being business-friendly. We said a Liberal Democrat run Edinburgh Council would:- put you first; work with you; listen to you; deliver high quality services you want; give you more say in decision-making; give you value for money; respond to you quickly and courteously; give you a vibrant capital city to be proud of; give you and the city a bright new future.

Despite inheriting a dire financial situation and, from the second year of our administration, facing the challenges of world-wide recession, we have delivered most of what we said we would in our 2007 manifesto. It has not been easy but we have worked very hard and always put Edinburgh first. It has been a privilege to do so.

With the Liberal Democrats in charge, Edinburgh has become a much better place. We have listened to what you told us you wanted and have made Edinburgh better for you in many ways. Under the Liberal Democrats, Edinburgh has won multiple awards for our quality of life, economic resilience, investment in staff, competitiveness, tourist offering, festivals, and cleanliness. Edinburgh was named in 2008-09 and 2009-10 as Scotland's most improved urban council. Our residents' satisfaction with the city is the highest of any surveyed by MORI.

Since May 2007, the Liberal Democrats have:

- **Made Edinburgh's environment better**– with doubled recycling rates; two Beautiful Scotland Best City Awards; cycling up 15% in the last year alone; more allotments created; better green spaces, with an outstanding 20 parks attaining Green Flags
- **Made Edinburgh better for young people** – with record school results; vulnerable children better looked after; youth crime down; investment in new and refurbished schools; the “Edinburgh Guarantee” to provide apprenticeships and jobs
- **Made Edinburgh better for the elderly and vulnerable** – with 4 new care homes and a 5th on the way; an award-winning “re-ablement” service so that more people get

tailored care to give maximum independence and dignity in their own home; more respite care

- **Made Edinburgh safer**– with crime down across the city; roads and pavements vastly improved; youth crime cut
- **Looked after the money wisely** – with departments in or under budget for two years now for the first time in the history of the council; healthy reserves of £13m for emergencies built up from a pittance of £373K inherited; sought best value without compromising quality; had widest ever budget consultation and acted on findings
- **Tackled housing issues well** – with less homelessness; the first Council house building in a generation; improved quality of facilities in existing council homes; the best grading in Scotland from the Scottish Housing Regulator
- **Helped Edinburgh remain resilient in the economic downturn** – drawing in investors and jobs
- **Made Edinburgh more open in its dealings** – with a cross-party, democratic committee system, instead of Labour’s closed one party cabinet; had genuine consultation; worked in partnership with public, private and voluntary sectors
- **Made Edinburgh’s culture and leisure opportunities better** – with new and refurbished libraries; improved pitches and pavilions; completion of major cultural and sporting venue projects

We now seek the opportunity to continue to make Edinburgh a better place for all. We want to continue putting Edinburgh first, not political dogma, with common-sense policies underpinned by our Liberal Democrat values of liberty, equality and community. We want to continue promoting local democracy, celebrating diversity, nurturing creativity, protecting the environment and our heritage for future generations, and acting responsibly and decisively in your interests .

We want to progress our vision of a better Edinburgh by continuing to:

- **invest in our children and our schools** to ensure that every young person in Edinburgh has an equal opportunity to reach their potential and that our most vulnerable and at risk children are safe, secure and thriving;
- **support Edinburgh’s economic competitiveness**, promoting growth and investment, and Edinburgh’s festivals, events and cultural offering to build prosperity and quality of life for all residents;
- **improve care and protection** for our increasing elderly population and our most vulnerable residents;
- **create a safer, cleaner, greener and more sustainable Edinburgh**; and
- **provide high-quality services, efficiently and effectively**

*Councillor Jenny Dawe, Leader, City of Edinburgh Council Liberal Democrat Group,
April 2012*

Democracy, Accountability, Stewardship of Finance and Resources

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said we would have fair, open and accountable governance; review partnerships and relationships with key organisations; concentrate on getting basics right; keep people informed; put the customer first; listen to people; recognise Edinburgh's role as an international and capital city; value the voluntary sector; address inequality; be an excellent employer; look after resources and give best value for residents.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered on all of that. We replaced the one party cabinet of the previous administration with a much fairer, transparent, cross-party committee system of Core Committees; and developed 12 local Neighbourhood Partnerships. We have redesigned the Edinburgh Partnership of public, private, voluntary and community representatives from a dysfunctional talking shop into a strategy setting Board and Executive with budgets and powers to implement policy. An Armed Forces representative has joined the Edinburgh Partnership recently, following a covenant agreement. Through caring for and developing our staff, in 2012 Edinburgh became the first Council in Scotland to achieve Gold Investors in People (IiP) status, one of only 3% of IiP organisations to gain Gold. For the second successive year, all departments delivered on or under budget in 2010/11, and we are on track for a third year. While providing value for money for Edinburgh's residents, we have improved the council's financial stability through strict budget monitoring procedures, ongoing efficiency targets and an appropriate reserves strategy - a record £141million in efficiency savings have been identified during this administration but not at the expense of front-line services; and the Council's unallocated reserve has increased from the paltry £373,000 left to us in 2006/07 to £13million at the end of 2010/11. We achieved our best ever Council Tax collection rate collection last year, following annual improvements since 2007. We pressed successfully for Capital City funding, for housing funds, and in making Edinburgh's case for funding at every opportunity. Our budgets have been marked by a shift towards preventative spending and an outcomes based approach, with the most inclusive and widespread community engagement on budget and priorities that the Council has ever seen. Modernising Pay was implemented in October 2010, delivering fair and equal pay across the Council.

A promise of more...

We will face up to the challenge of maintaining services to the level expected by our citizens with reduced resources and constantly growing demographic and other pressures. We will not be driven by dogma in deciding how to deliver services but will judge public, private, third sector and social enterprises against effectiveness.

We will:-

- continue our fairer governance arrangements but review the remits of committees to ensure there is a good match to the new grouping of core functions under the new Corporate Governance directorate.
- build on best practice in local Neighbourhood Partnerships to make them all as good as the best and to involve residents more in driving up standards.

- be ready to build on our transformed Edinburgh (community planning) Partnership to deliver on the new Community Planning framework currently being considered by COSLA and the Scottish Government.
- work in partnership with other organisations and sectors to deliver what is best for Edinburgh.
- continue to be excellent stewards of Council resources while delivering high quality services.
- given that Edinburgh is a net contributor of around £100m annually in business rates to the national pool, use all endeavours to redress this, including furthering our Tax Increment Finance pilot scheme.
- with 80% of our council funding coming from government grant, continue to push for recognition of Edinburgh's needs in finance distribution.
- knowing the value of long-term forward planning for the city's voluntary organisations, aim to give greater funding certainty, for longer, and earlier in the budget year.
- continue to value and invest in our greatest asset, our staff.
- ensure that the culture of the organisation is one of continuous improvement and working across boundaries, with equalities and sustainability at its core.
- implement revised business cases to transform those services which were examined under the alternative business models programme, including consideration of further property rationalisation.
- continue with the Priority Based Business and Budget Planning project as the basis for a new five year business plan.
- continue to work hard at Community Engagement, using innovative means of involving residents in decision-making.
- review 'Outlook' and other publications to ensure they are fit for purpose; make increased use of social media and websites to disseminate information and to engage with residents; and minimise the "digital divide" by utilising libraries, neighbourhood offices and other facilities for sharing information.
- recognising that Edinburgh is still an unequal city, maintain our emphasis on equalities issues with increased pressure to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advancing equality and fostering good community relations, mitigating the impacts of the economic situation, and meeting the challenges of the 2010 Equality Act.
- assess implications of a living wage for all City of Edinburgh Council employees when the report called for in our 2012 Budget motion is presented.
- use the current review of arms-length companies to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- ensure all councillors are trained adequately to fulfil their roles as councillors and as Board members.
- continue to work with relevant Trade Unions and ensure they are, and feel, properly consulted.
- following completion in 2012-13 of the external and internal investigations into allegations of fraud and malpractice in property issues, the start of which predated the current administration - and having had representations from the public that they want to see a new property conservation and statutory notice service, that they can have confidence in - we will explore with stakeholders a scheme with new terms of reference including an independent Board for scrutiny or governance.

Community Safety

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said we wanted a city where people of all ages feel safe and secure in their own and other neighbourhoods and communities. We aimed to support increased police numbers and push Edinburgh's case for special funding; encourage Neighbourhood Partnerships to develop good relationships with Police; ensure police work with young people; take strong action against retailers who persist in illegal sales to young people; tackle alcohol/drug addictions; support a modern high quality fire service.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered action on all of that. Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams in all 17 wards have helped to make neighbourhoods safer. The city centre has benefitted from continued investment of £500,000 a year in the city centre policing unit, leading, for example, to reported crime in the City Centre during the Christmas period decreasing year on year. Working with the business community, the number of taxi ranks patrolled by Taxi Marshals on Friday and Saturday evenings has increased from three to five. The investment in local community safety teams targeting crime and antisocial behaviour has led to ASB complaints dropping from 4,708 complaints in 06/07 to 3,695 in 2010/11, an overall decrease of 22%. Recorded crime in most categories has decreased steadily from 48,403 recorded crimes in 06/07 to 38,253 in 2010/11; and calls made to the police about youths dropped from 12,983 in 2009/10 to 9,984 in 2010/11.

A promise of more...

Statistics give an overall picture but every crime affects an individual. We will continue aiming to decrease crime and the fear of crime. A major issue over the 2012-17 period will be the impact on local services of the centralisation of Police and Fire & Rescue Services.

We will:

- continue working to make the unwelcome centralisation of Police and Fire & Rescue Services as locally accountable as possible.
- build on good Neighbourhood models of work.
- implement a review of CCTV in the city, ensuring it discourages crime but does not merely displace it or infringe civil liberties.
- continue with programmes that have delivered results, such as the Lothian & Borders School Link Officers, being rolled out to all 23 Secondary Schools.
- continue with interventions that work, such as the "No Knives Better Lives" pilot, "Best Bar None" in Leith, the Violence Against Women Partnership, and the city centre dispersal programme.
- maintain emphasis on prevention of crime and fires.
- tackle the increase in "hate" crime, under-reported in the past, supporting Lothian & Borders Police's restorative justice project to improve community confidence and reduce reoffending.
- at national level, oppose new "spy charters" that would allow the government to monitor individuals' calls, texts and emails without any reason.

Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Festivals

A record of action...

In our 2007 Manifesto, we said we wanted inclusive cultural, sport and leisure services of the highest quality for all. We aimed to: give culture and leisure in the city the high status and funding it needs; make it easy for all to participate in healthy activities; create more children's and youth facilities; ensure Edinburgh has first class, user-friendly facilities; give local people more say over local green spaces; enhance Edinburgh's attraction for tourists; make sure Edinburgh's Festivals retain their great reputation.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered on our manifesto commitments. Capital projects include refurbishment of the Royal Commonwealth Pool; interim investment in the Meadowbank Stadium and Sports Centre; refurbishment of Glenogle Baths; investment in parks, pitches and pavilions, including a new pavilion at Colinton Mains Park, a seven-a-side third generation pitch and changing facility at Lochend Park, and, in all, 39 pavilions upgraded or replaced in 2007-11; a Skate Park at Saughton; completion of the Usher Hall project; refurbishment of statues; revamp of the City Arts Centre; a new library at Drumbrae as part of the new multi-purpose hub; refurbishment of Morningside, Portobello and Stockbridge Libraries; and a new archives repository at Murrayburn, to which 5 km of records have been moved. We managed to provide increased investment in festivals and events that, in 2011/12, helped provide for audiences in excess of 4.2 million. The Edinburgh Festivals Impact Study estimated that over 5,200 full time equivalent jobs derive from the festivals in Edinburgh with £245 million generated in Edinburgh in additional tourism revenue by the city's year round festivals in 2010, and £261 million in Scotland. We oversaw many successful events including the Archery World Cup Final; Touch Rugby World Cup; Golden Oldies Hockey; World Youth Climbing Championships; David Mach Exhibition; the Papal Visit; and National Armed Forces Day 2011.

A promise of more...

We will continue to value the economic, social, health and reputational advantages of investment in our city's cultural, sporting and leisure facilities, services and events. We welcome the increased participation of Edinburgh residents in cultural activity and in sporting activity.

We will:

- complete Assembly Rooms refurbishment.
- deliver a new library in Craigmillar as part of the new East Neighbourhood Hub.
- complete improvements to the King's Theatre.
- support the refurbishment of Acheson House and its incorporation in the Museum of Edinburgh; extension of Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop; and refurbishment of the Old City Observatory and Dome.
- provide enhanced visitor services at the Museum of Childhood as part of property enhancements across the Museums estate.

- ensure that a new Edinburgh home is found for Lauriston Place Museum of Fire, set up in 1986 and accredited in 2011, if the centralisation of Fire & Rescue Services results in it having to move from its current location.
- improve the Ross Theatre.
- continue to enhance visitor services and improve disability access at the City Art Centre.
- use the knowledge gained from the Usher Hall's 5 Star Tourist Award to improve other cultural venues.
- mindful of the competition from other cities, continue vital financial and other support to maintain Edinburgh's international reputation as the world's Festival City.
- support the City Archives' improvement plans.
- continue to buck the national trend and enhance Library Services, with innovative use of new technologies.
- with partners, develop the Central Library.
- deliver a new third generation synthetic pitch at Meadowbank Sports Centre and Jack Kane Centre, as part of a three year investment of £940K in 3G pitches.
- work towards replacing Meadowbank as a 21st Century Community Stadium with a running track and capacity to host medium scale events, along the lines of Scotstoun in Glasgow.
- encourage joint use and local input into creating Sporting Hubs with Sports Scotland; and encourage joint working between schools, PE Departments, Active Schools Coordinators and local sports clubs.
- with partners, facilitate the enhancement of Port Edgar Marina and Sailing School.
- refurbish Joppa Tennis Club pavilion.
- continue to support Edinburgh Leisure to make Edinburgh a more physically active city, including continuing additional funding for each of the next three years for Edinburgh Leisure to protect existing services and provide funding for programmes for 65+, vulnerable children and young people, nursery school children and pupils with additional support needs.
- ensure an Olympic and Commonwealth Games legacy by building on joint working with national sports bodies.
- continue to work to attract high profile national, international and civic events.

Economic Development

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said we wanted a thriving Edinburgh that continues to attract businesses and tourists, and that provides a creative and pleasant living environment for all. We aimed to: make Edinburgh attractive to world business players; retain businesses and jobs already in Edinburgh; create an attractive environment for small businesses; support Edinburgh's first Business Improvement District if businesses voted for it to go ahead; continue to press for special case Capital City Funding; work with the wider city region to boost economic growth; help local urban centres/villages.

Over the past five years, despite recession, Liberal Democrats have delivered our commitments. Edinburgh has been identified by the Centre for Cities as one of the UK's most successful cities. The funding and support we have given the council's Economic Development section, sadly neglected by the previous administration, has, for example, attracted over £500m of new investment in the city's physical infrastructure since 2007, over £60m of new commercial investment, and brought in over 30 new investment projects to Edinburgh in the last 12 months. New investors and jobs have included Virgin Money (300 new jobs), Avaloq (500 new jobs over five years), Primark (557 new jobs) and Amazon (250 new jobs). We have assisted 1,529 SMEs in becoming high-growth companies between April and December 2011; helped over 5,000 new business start-ups and over 5,000 disadvantaged people into employment or learning. The "Edinburgh Guarantee" initiative has transformed the futures of school leavers helped into positive destinations. Our quick action in setting up the Edinburgh Resilience Action Plan as an immediate response to the economic downturn and the establishment of the Economic Action Resilience Network, bringing together key players in the public and private sector, has helped many individuals and companies weather the financial storm from 2008 onwards. Edinburgh won the bid for managing the €8.4m INTERREG funded "Open Innovation" initiative on behalf of nine European regions to encourage more open innovation among SMEs and to stimulate commercialisation in academic institutions. We have been integral to the successful set-up of the Scottish Cities Alliance; supported the South Queensferry BID process and continue to work closely with Essential Edinburgh, following the success of the city centre BID ballot; created town manager posts; and set up Marketing Edinburgh from Destination Edinburgh Marketing Alliance, Edinburgh Convention Bureau and Edinburgh Film Focus. We have recently been awarded Best Large City in Europe for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 2012 and Best Large City FDI Strategy in Europe. Our strong case, with partners, based on Edinburgh's strengths in financial services and green energy, has given us the prize of Edinburgh as the HQ for the UK's Green Investment Bank against competition from 30 other cities.

A promise of more...

We will continue to prioritise the economic development of Edinburgh, promoting Edinburgh as a great place in which to live, invest, visit, study and work. We will build on the excellent partnerships already operating with public, private and voluntary sector organisations in the city to promote sustainable economic development.

We will:

- follow through on the new economic strategy for the City for 2012-2017, 'Strategy for Jobs', which will base sustainable economic growth on investment in jobs and continuing to invest in the city's development and regeneration, supporting businesses, and supporting inward investment.
- work with Scottish Enterprise, developers, the Scottish Government and others to get the best from the new Enterprise Areas at Port of Leith (low carbon/renewables), and the Edinburgh BioQuarter.
- continue with the Six Cities (London, Munich, Toronto, Doha, Tianjin, Mumbai) overseas strategy to build relationships for the future.
- work with partners to attract more international investors.
- continue to support investment in and encourage opportunities in environmental technologies, the creative industries, social enterprises and other key sectors.
- continue the focus on development areas of West Edinburgh, South East, Waterfront, and City Centre, involving local communities in future plans.
- support Business Improvement District processes, including the potential of a sectoral tourism bid to encourage tourist-related businesses in the city to contribute to the festivals, events and infrastructure that attracts millions of visitors to the city each year.
- consider how best to implement the Tax Increment Finance scheme already agreed for Leith, and how this will complement Enterprise Area status, and examine the potential of TIF and other innovative schemes elsewhere in the city in order to create more investment in the city's infrastructure and regeneration.
- help to make sure the Green Investment Bank HQ is a success with a view to attracting transactional services in the future.
- play a prime role in the Scottish Cities Alliance, working with the other six cities to build on the cities' success as sources of employment, wealth creation and creativity and as key drivers of the Scottish economy.
- where appropriate, work with Glasgow on common interests, as we did on High Speed Rail and reduced journey times between the two cities.
- continue to expand the "Edinburgh Guarantee", drawing in more private and public sector organisations to provide positive destinations and guidance to young people at risk of being out of work or gainful activity.
- oversee the completion of the Edinburgh International Conference Centre expansion project and fulfil its potential to attract new conference and event business.
- give appropriate support to Edinburgh's entrepreneurs.
- strengthen retail performance in the city centre and enhance town and local centres, encouraging local retailers and local shopping centres through the Town Centre Managers' scheme
- use community benefit clauses in tenders to provide opportunities for local residents and social enterprises.
- ensure the whole Council understands its role in creating conditions that support the economy and make Edinburgh a prime visitor and conference destination.

Education, Children and Families

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said we wanted a child-centred Children and Families service with every school as good as the best; with all children fulfilling their potential; and every family supported. We aimed to: raise attainment in schools; care for the vulnerable; help those being failed by the system; stretch the gifted; promote arts, sports and adult education; make better use of the school estate; develop and help, not demonise, young people; intervene early to prevent social and academic problems later.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered successes in all areas. Improvements to the estate have included successful completion of the PPP2 schools; progress on plans and funding for the three “Wave 3” secondary schools of Boroughmuir High School, Portobello High and James Gillespie’s High; investment in community centres (Royston/Wardieburn, Cameron House, Valley Park), nurseries (Gracemount and Clermiston), Hillview residential respite centre, and energy investment and water conservation works. Edinburgh has witnessed its highest rise in positive school-leaver destinations since 1997. We have delivered extra support for children with additional support needs and in our most deprived communities; and provided a wide range of activities for young people and their families. We have continued our commitment to free music tuition. Attainment has been improving since 2008 and now we have had improvements in every nationally reported measure of educational achievement; significant improvements in child protection and children’s social work services; improvements in outcomes for Looked After Children; and record participation in adult education programmes. In a survey of 2,500 parents and 9,000 children, 95% of parents were satisfied with their school. Community based sports hubs in three secondary schools – Forrester, St Augustine’s and Broughton – led to **sportscotland** commenting Edinburgh is “leading the way”. Edinburgh launched Scotland’s first 0-3 years action plan. We have strengthened support for vulnerable children and families through award winning projects such as PrePare (addict mums), the Family Nurse Partnership, Growing Confidence, and Parenting Programmes. A protocol of understanding was signed in June 2011 bringing together all the Higher and Further Education institutions in partnership with the Council to promote Edinburgh as an International City of Learning. Initiatives have brought language students into primary schools, to improve take up of Modern Languages.

A promise of more...

Investment in our young people, schools and teachers is an investment in our future. We want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, enjoy their childhood and get a good start in life. We also recognise the value of lifelong learning, especially in a harsh economic climate. Education can help people to live safely, happily and healthily.

We will:

- continue to invest in early years and early intervention.
- continue to identify and help children in need of protection.
- ensure support for vulnerable children to improve outcomes and life chances.

- continue to prioritise high standards of educational attainment and achievement for all children, with special attention to the lowest achieving 20%.
- encourage good self-evaluation in schools and a focus on literacy and numeracy.
- promote positive behaviour in our schools, instilling respect and tolerance.
- provide a broad-based, holistic curriculum.
- ensure that all primary school children get at least two hours of PE a week.
- continue to put emphasis on the arts in the emotional and educational development of the child, making sure that access is open to all, no matter the income of the family.
- continue to provide free music tuition in our schools.
- continue to improve school meal uptake.
- hold to class sizes of 25 in P1 and continue to work towards smaller class sizes in areas of deprivation.
- improve ICT in schools, building on the redesign following consultation with all stakeholders.
- continue development of Froebel practice in primary schools, especially P1.
- encourage wider modern language availability in Primary schools using overseas students from the Universities and Colleges to assist.
- continue to improve community access to schools, encouraging Head Teachers to open up schools to the wider community; and improve the marketing of after- hours school facilities.
- endeavour to build on the sports hubs concept by expanding provision across city.
- improve children's health outcomes with a particular focus on healthy weight, emotional and mental health, and teaching about the risks of drug and alcohol misuse.
- mainstream the Growing Confidence Programme that builds understanding of positive mental health and emotional well-being when funding runs out in 2012.
- continue investment in the Education, Children and Families estate for minor works and major capital repair and maintenance.
- move forward with the three Wave 3 schools designed to deliver Curriculum for Excellence in custom built settings – James Gillespie's High School; Boroughmuir High School (either refurbishment on site or new build at Fountainbridge, depending on the results of consultation) and Portobello High School (currently on hold because of a court appeal by a protest group)
- deliver the new Seaview Respite Unit for children with disabilities, along with a wider masterplan aimed at re-invigorating the wider Bingham community.
- deliver Edinburgh's first stand-alone Gaelic Medium Education primary school in the former Bonnington Primary School building.
- deliver the two new Primary School extensions in the pipeline – Corstorphine Primary and Tower Bank Primary.
- get every school to develop an energy conservation strategy and a more effective monitoring of energy usage and areas of waste.
- increase the number of young people who leave school and go into a positive destination of work, training or education.

- continue good practice in consultation and communication through the Consultative Committee with Parents, budget consultation with parents and Head Teachers, Consultative Committee with Community Learning & Development (CLD) stakeholders, and Youth Forums.
- continue doing more with less – reducing bureaucracy in HQ, building a lean and streamlined service, protecting frontline services wherever possible.
- develop improved partnership working across the Council and with the voluntary sector in order to build on the ‘Total Craigroyston’ model.
- focus on the role of the Council as corporate parent, building on cross departmental co-operation to provide enhanced opportunities for looked after and accommodated children.
- continue to support the expansion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and the Junior Award Scheme.
- look at amalgamating Children and Families Centre with nurseries, where appropriate e.g. Fort.
- continue to support and roll out parenting programmes, especially for families who are struggling.
- increase early years ‘wrap around provision’ where possible, recognising the importance of high quality, affordable, flexible childcare for many parents.
- expand the provision of a Health Visitor one day a week in centres, to provide a non-threatening “drop in” facility for parents to get advice and help.
- continue to offer early support for families so that fewer children need to be looked after, with a particular focus on tackling drug and alcohol misuse; look at drug and alcohol services and their funding to develop a more unified structure with increased political input; and expand the Pre-Pare service.
- support the growth of adult learning.
- continue to run Foster Care campaigns as necessary to match need.

Environment

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said we wanted to create a greener, cleaner city where good environmental practice is at the core of all policy and practice and where resources are protected for future generations. We aimed to: improve waste reduction, reuse and recycling immediately; have 75% recycling by 2020 on the way to Zero Waste; have cleaner streets in the centre and the suburbs; reduce the city's carbon footprint to a Zero Carbon economy by 2050; improve air quality; increase renewable energy use; conduct a full environmental audit.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered on most of our commitments. Edinburgh is the first Scottish local authority to make a gold WWF pledge to ensure all timber and wood-derived purchases come from sustainable and legal sources. Our recycling rates exceed 31.5%, with 1 in 5 tonnes of waste recycled in 2006 rising to the current 1 in 3 tonnes, in part through the introduction of food waste recycling, plastics and battery recycling. Edinburgh now produces the lowest tonnage of municipal solid waste per head of any Council in Scotland. We have introduced a food waste collection service to 50,000 households; and year-round garden waste collection. We have introduced a scheme where citizens can access City Recycling Centres using either City Car Club vehicles or hired vans by arrangement; are developing recycling services for businesses through our Trade Waste scheme including paper, cardboard, cans, plastics and food waste; and consulted widely in the city centre World Heritage site to improve refuse collection, by abandoning black sack collections and offering either communal bins (including recycling bins) or gull proof bags. Recognising the importance of engaging with our young people, it is gratifying that 84% of our schools are involved in the Eco-Schools programme. Our street cleanliness scores (CIMS) have increased to 71.3 in 2010-11 from 67 in 2006-7 and have maintained a 91.3% average of streets clean in the City, from 88% in 2006-7. There have been improvements in quality of all our 136 parks with 20 green flag awards for parks and green spaces in 2011. In 2011, Parks and Green Spaces won the APSE "Best Service Team – Parks, Grounds and Horticultural Service" award and in 2012 won the COSLA Excellence Award for Innovation. We have also achieved 2 Best City Awards from Beautiful Scotland; and a Silver Gilt Award in Large City of Britain in Bloom 2011. We have agreed a new allotment strategy for the city, identifying sites for new allotments, including the creation of 73 additional allotment plots (an increase of over 10% with new sites at India Place, Inchkeith Court and Dumbryden). We developed a successful partnership for delivery of Winter Weather services; established an Air Quality Working Group; pioneered the city's Carbon Reduction Programme; established a Climate Change Partnership; and agreed an Odour Abatement Order and works in relation to Seafield sewage works to minimise the odours. We opened the first new cemetery in Edinburgh for 50 years guaranteeing sufficient space for at least a further 50 years.

A promise of more...

We recognise the importance to future generations of looking after the city's environment today. Residents enjoy our parks and green spaces and want clean streets. We will build on the good environmental practice we have established.

We will:

- make Edinburgh Council a “green exemplar” in carbon reduction, energy efficiency and sustainability, delivering on the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Action Plan 2012-14 in partnership with other organisations.
- further develop and implement the Carbon Reduction programme, reducing carbon emissions across the city.
- use energy efficient lighting, smart metering and other technological means to manage the council’s estate in the most sustainable fashion.
- support the development of decentralised energy generation.
- deliver on our Sustainable Procurement Policy and Revised Sustainable Timber Policy, adopted in 2012.
- continue with the Climate Change Partnership including major institutions across the city (such as universities and health service) to ensure that action on climate change is co-ordinated across all the main ‘players’ in the city.
- use the Liberal Democrat national energy-saving “Green Deal”, to be implemented in Autumn 2012, to ensure Edinburgh residents have warm homes, lower energy bills and help reduce the city’s carbon footprint.
- continue to support local and city-wide initiatives to make the city more sustainable.
- continue to support local farmers markets encouraging consumption of local and seasonal foods.
- continue to support Edinburgh as a Fairtrade City.
- where appropriate, implement a range of initiatives to improve air quality including Low Emission Zones, freight quality corridors, encouraging bus operators to use the most energy efficient and least polluting engines, encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use and examining whether traffic flow can be improved to prevent the build-up of pollution in certain areas; and work with planners to ensure that new developments do not create centres of air pollution.
- continue to build on the number of Green Flag parks adding at least one per year and maintaining those we have achieved.
- seek to protect our green spaces, including examining whether further parks and green spaces should be transferred to Fields in Trust as an extra protection.
- ensure that every park has a management plan during the next administration period and continue to invest in our parks and gardens and seek recognition through further awards.
- support the development of Friends of Parks as a good way of communities claiming ownership of local parks.
- develop at least one new allotment site per year.
- seek to develop schemes such as garden share, where enthusiastic gardeners and vegetable growers can agree to cultivate neighbours’ gardens, or gardens of others who wish them to do so.
- continue to take action to meet our target of recycling 75% of waste by 2020.
- encourage continued waste minimisation.
- develop with partner authorities a Zero Waste Park at Millerhill, linking residual waste treatment with companies making best use of recycled materials to create a centre of excellence for Scotland.

- continue to prioritise keeping our streets clean and increase the average CIMS (street cleanliness) score.
- review public convenience provision in the city to ensure appropriate investment; further explore the possibility of working with businesses in the city to provide access to their toilets in exchange for some financial recognition; seek to develop provision for the night-time economy; and develop a 'nearest public toilet' app for visitors to the city.
- continue to monitor the Seafeld sewage works carefully, taking action when necessary on any odour.
- continue to encourage participation in the eco-schools programme as a good way of encouraging young people to play an active part in protecting our environment.
- continue roll-out of food waste collection (100,000 more in 2012); deliver greater efficiency, service improvement and higher levels of recycling through the Alternative Business Models internal improvement plan for Environment services.
- continue provision for dealing with severe winter weather conditions.
- develop a £250K micro-hydro scheme at Saughton Weir to provide renewable, low carbon energy for Council facilities.
- invest in sustainable transport.
- fund a replacement tree planting programme to replace trees uprooted or damaged in storms.
- continue pressing for Scottish Government money for flood prevention; and continue delivering Water of Leith flood prevention.
- deliver improvements to street lighting.
- continue to support Edinburgh Community Energy Cooperative Ltd and the Transition Edinburgh movement.
- monitor the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts 'Make It Local Scotland' Edinburgh project that will develop an online service to help residents and visitors enjoy our parks and green spaces.
- use Community Payback Contracts to tackle litter, graffiti and dog fouling by giving those apprehended on more than one occasion the option of cleaning up the area in which they have offended as an alternative to fines or other penalties.

Health and Social Care

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said we wanted a Council that has concern for people at its core, that will provide effective support and protection for those in need, that will treat all people with dignity and respect, that will act to the highest professional standards at all times. We aimed to: review the current structures against desired outcomes; have genuine partnership working in policy planning and service delivery; provide choice, flexibility, and dignity in service delivery for the elderly; provide more uniform provision of mental health services across the city; change the emphasis from care homes to care at home for those that want it; deliver new care homes; address those areas of service currently under-financed, such as help for those with brain injuries, those with physical disabilities, and those in need of respite care; care for carers.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered on our commitments. There are significantly increased numbers of people with high-level needs enjoying more independent living at home. Evening care at home has increased by 127% ; and the number getting a weekend service is up 56% from 2007. Through the joint £6m Change Fund with NHS Lothian and voluntary sector partners, we have delivered investment in home care, carers, telecare, community connecting, and voluntary sector delivery of new initiatives. We have invested in learning disability services; in our award-winning reablement service to support older people to achieve a greater degree of independence; and in more support to carers, with respite care expanded. The number of recipients of Direct Payments, giving more choice and control over how care is provided, has increased from 196 people in 2007 to 644 at December 2011. We established a Commissioning Strategy Checkpoint Group - of service users, carers, private and voluntary sector - to ensure proper engagement. We have completed four new high quality care homes - Marionville in 2007, Castlegreen in 2008, North Merchiston in 2009, and Inch View in 2011; with a fifth under development at Drumbrae. Purpose built new day services for older people have opened at Canalside, North Merchiston, Elizabeth Maginnis Court and Drumbrae. Firrhill Respite Centre for people with learning difficulties and complex needs was opened in 2010.

A promise of more...

It is vital that we treat the more vulnerable in our community with dignity and respect. Demographic predictions show that we face a dramatic increase in the number of people living beyond 85 (15% in next 3 years) and that half can be expected to need some form of health or social care. We want to continue to shift the balance to looking after people in their own homes for as long as possible; to invest in more preventative services; to support carers; and to provide flexible, accessible services to suit individuals.

We will:

- deliver a sixth new Care Home, after the completion of Drumbrae Care Home, to meet expected demand for those who can no longer stay at home.
- refurbish existing Care Homes to ensure they meet the modern standards required.

- build on our strong record of easing access to services by delivering more co-located services in hubs, redesigning services, and making it easier to get in touch.
- continue to improve our Home Care service, expanding the overnight visiting service, and improving quality. No social care service will be purchased by the council by 2016 which scores less than 4 by the Care Inspectorate and no Care Home will be used which scores less than 3.
- support continued uptake of Direct Payments.
- continue to make services as personalised as possible, with the service user at the heart of the service.
- continue support for community and preventative services that prevent hospital and care home admission, support early discharge, and reduce the future need for hospital and care home beds, whilst improving outcomes for older people and carers.
- increase telecare services to enable older and vulnerable people to achieve a greater degree of independence, and to live more confidently and safely in their own homes and communities.
- use the Change Fund to invest in preventative services.
- expand the Community Capacity Building work we have started.
- build on the success of pilot projects for Intensive Home Treatment teams for Mental Health.
- acknowledging the debt we owe to unpaid carers (an estimated 47,000 in Edinburgh), to improve support for carers, including by expanding respite services to meet growing need, especially for older people, by building a new Respite Centre for Older People.
- develop other services to help carers, including the feasibility of an emergency card system that would provide a care service quickly if a carer is involved in an accident or other emergency situation.
- support post diagnosis help for carers of people with dementia.
- look at imaginative ways of using Direct Payments to fund different types of respite provision.
- continue the personalisation agenda to provide more choice and control for people who use care and support services.
- provide more specialist equipment for older people and people with disabilities.
- develop a new specialist day and respite centre for people with autism.
- develop an Autism Plan to fit the national strategy.
- expand support services for employment opportunities for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Learning Disabilities.
- continue to improve our Home Care Service.
- have regular reviews of care packages.
- expand the re-ablement philosophy to other service groups – mental health, housing with support, day care, learning disabilities.
- develop the shift of mental health services to be community rather than hospital based.
- participate fully in the new Health and Social Care Partnerships, currently under development, mindful of the need to have fair, transparent governance arrangements.

Housing

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said that everyone has the right to have a safe, warm home that is within their means; and that we would work with all sectors to ensure the fulfilment of that right. We aimed to: ensure the Council meets its statutory responsibilities in an exemplary manner; maximise tenant involvement in decisions related to their housing and communities; by 2012, try to provide permanent accommodation to all households who are unintentionally homeless; work with landlords to improve standards in the private sector; facilitate safe, affordable, efficient, accessible, warm, healthy homes for all.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered on our proposals. The first council homes for a generation have been built in Edinburgh; and a record number of affordable homes (1,558) were approved last year, sustaining 2,180 jobs in construction and related industries. Between 2007/8 and 2011/12, 2,487 new affordable homes will have been built in the city. In 2010/11 and 2011/12, the Council approved £76 million additional funding to support the building of new homes through the National Housing Trust and through lending to housing associations. In 2010, the Council achieved the best grading (AAB) of any Scottish local authority following inspection by the Scottish Housing Regulator. In 2010/11, following successive years of reductions in actual rent arrears, the Council was one of only three local authorities in Scotland to both reduce rent arrears and evictions. In the last four years, the average time taken to relet Council homes has fallen from 37 days to 27 days. Between 2006/7 and 2010/11, the Council and its partners have reduced by 15.6% the number of people presenting as homeless; the number of homeless people receiving help to move into employment has increased by 105%; and the number of people reporting that they had slept rough reduced by 26%. £181 million has been invested over four years in getting Council homes in Edinburgh to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and are maintained to a high standard. In April 2012, 75% of Council stock met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard compared to 17% in 2007. A £2.5m communal heating system has been installed at Cables Wynd House to provide cheaper and more efficient heating for residents.

A promise of more...

The provision of affordable housing remains a priority for Liberal Democrats. Individuals and families should be able to live in a home they can afford, that is warm and safe.

We will:

- continue with our award-winning £170m 21st Century Homes project that is delivering 1,400 new homes in Craigmillar, Leith, Gracemount, North Sighthill, Pennywell and Muirhouse.
- triple the number of affordable homes built, providing essential housing and construction jobs.
- continue to look for and use innovative models for funding housing.
- continue to campaign for Edinburgh to receive its fair share of investment for social housing.

- comply with our legal obligation to meet the 2012 target for eliminating unintentional homelessness.
- meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard for all Council Homes by 2015.
- in 2012-13, deliver 1,500 new kitchens and bathrooms, 780 rewired homes, 400 new energy efficient heating systems, 300 homes fitted with high energy double glazing, 1,550 new doors fitted, a range of common repairs to roofs, external wall finishes and communal stair improvements.
- install further communal heating systems.
- strengthen housing advice for those in private rented accommodation.

Planning

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we wanted to achieve good design and to enhance the built environment; preserve the qualities that won the city centre its World Heritage Site status; protect and enhance our conservation areas using the “character statements” produced thanks to a Liberal Democrat initiative; safeguard the Green Belt and the city’s green open spaces; increase the amount of affordable housing in Edinburgh; encourage sustainable buildings, using combined heat and power, microgeneration of electricity and other sources of renewable energy; protect the vitality of the inner city centre; have new developments with a mix of unit sizes; engage earlier with developers.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered on the majority of our 2007 commitments. We have been pleased to support the Scotsman Steps project, Grassmarket Public Realm and St Andrew Square revamp. The Edinburgh Planning Concordat, produced jointly by the Council’s Planning Service and the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Developers’ Group, has helped to make dealings between the Council and the business community more transparent. The Place-making agenda has led to a more holistic approach to design. The timescales for processing householder planning applications have improved; and for 2010-2011 Edinburgh was in the top quartile of all planning authorities in all types of applications.

A promise of more...

Edinburgh has a rich legacy of architecture and landscape, which Liberal Democrats want to enhance. We are proud of our World Heritage Site of medieval Old Town and Georgian New Town, our 4,800 listed buildings, our 39 conservation areas, and our green spaces. We do not want to see these destroyed by unfitting development.

We will:

- continue to protect, enhance, develop and maintain the city, mindful of our legacy from the past and our role as custodians of our heritage for future generations.
- work closely with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust to conserve the city’s buildings.
- deliver on the Action Plan to promote and protect our Old and New Town World Heritage Site, which is the most recommended World Heritage site to visit in the UK by TripAdvisor 2011 and the 5th most recommended by TripAdvisor 2010 out of 789 sites throughout the world.
- monitor the effectiveness of the Planning Concordat and develop it, as appropriate.
- continue to progress the Place-Making agenda, introduced by Sir Terry Farrell in his role as Edinburgh’s Design Champion, to improve the quality of buildings and spaces, creating places where people want to live, work, study, visit and play.
- introduce projects to remove on-street parking from parts of the city centre to produce a more pedestrian friendly environment.
- start to deliver on the Jan Gehl recommendations for the city centre, creating new welcoming spaces for residents and visitors; and report on potential

temporary traffic schemes by the end of 2012, with a report on permanent schemes by the middle of 2015.

- encourage developers to invest in brownfield sites to create residential communities.
- resist any breaches in the green belt and only ever allow development on green space land in very exceptional circumstances.
- continue to increase the supply of first class affordable housing of high quality and design, with a range of unit sizes, with a mix of social rent, mid market rent and shared equity for sale.
- advise that car parking in new flatted developments should be underground or in designated surface areas privately maintained by householders.
- seek relaxation of Planning guidelines to allow solar panels to be fitted to listed buildings and in conservation areas.
- continue to improve the quality of community engagement during the planning process.
- insist new offices should have good transport links and, ideally, should be incorporated into mixed use communities.
- not create new retail parks and allow only small extensions in existing centres
- continue to deliver on or above timescale performance targets for householder, non-householder and Listed Building applications and be consistent in decisions, as tested at appeal.
- improve the processing of Enforcement queries.
- currently the best performing of the four major Scottish cities in looking after historic buildings, aim to reduce further the number of A listed buildings “at risk” in the Buildings at Risk Register, working in partnership with owners where possible.

Transport and Connectivity

A record of action...

In our 2007 manifesto, we said we wanted excellent integrated public transport to encourage people out of cars; and local traffic management projects and road/pavement maintenance scrutinised locally. We aimed to: strongly promote the benefits of public transport; create a safer city for pedestrians, young and old; make Edinburgh a model cycle-friendly and walker-friendly city; improve roads and pavements throughout the city; involve local people in decisions on local traffic issues; complete the ring of Park and Ride sites round the city's perimeter; encourage Green Travel Plans.

Over the past five years, Liberal Democrats have delivered on most of our manifesto commitments. Over £70 million has been spent on road and pavement repairs in the last 4 years, moving us from 2nd worst in Scotland to 11th best for repairs; and roads in need of repair have dropped from 50% under the previous administration to 31% now. The first Resident Priority Parking zone was implemented in southern Grange; a Quality Cycle Corridor introduced from Kings Buildings to George Square; Edinburgh's first 20mph limit in south Edinburgh brought in; local road safety measures introduced across the city; and cycle use increased 15% year on year. A successful mediation process in early 2011, instructed by the Liberal Democrat Council Leader, led to agreement with the Consortium to resolve the Tram dispute, which had degenerated to a standstill project; and encouraging progress is now being made. The tram project as part of a modern integrated public transport system will deliver economic, social, environmental and business benefits for our expanding city. We hope that an independent Public Inquiry will help identify any failings in the planning, governance, contractual arrangements and *tie*. We have lobbied successfully for improvements to Edinburgh-Glasgow rail services, and led the campaign with Glasgow to bring High Speed Rail to Scotland. We have welcomed the recent investment announcements that will make Edinburgh a Super Connected City by 2015, through introduction of Superfast Broadband.

A promise of more...

Connectivity is vital to maintaining Edinburgh's attraction as a place to visit, work, study and invest. An accessible, effective public transport system, with encouragement of walking and cycling, contributes to our well-being.

We will:

- recognising the importance of building on our progress in maintaining good condition roads and pavements for all users, commit to reducing the percentage of roads and pavements in need of repair over the next five years.
- aware of the inherited backlog of repairs from the previous administration and of the damage wrought by two extreme winters, use the extra £3m in the 2012-13 budget to fix over a third of the city's potholes with our award-winning "Right First Time" scheme, using materials and processes to make more permanent repairs. Over the next four years, we will invest additional funds to ensure that all potholes are fixed permanently wherever possible.

- building on our investment in cycling, the highest in Scotland, and our road safety measures such as mobile speed signs and 20mph zones, increase the percentage of transport spend allocated to cycling to a minimum of 5% in 2012/13 and increase by 1% annually.
- accelerate the Active Travel Action Plan, improve the maintenance of the existing cycle network, target safety issues and reaffirm our commitment to the goals set out in the Charter of Brussels.
- roll out cycle training to all P6 children in Edinburgh's schools.
- work with NHS, education, voluntary and private sectors to promote cycling to work or study.
- continue to make Edinburgh more pedestrian friendly and encourage walking by pavement improvements; reduction of street clutter; vehicle activated speed signs at safety blackspots; and reduced traffic speeds and more crossing time at lights on school routes, residential areas, and areas heavily used by pedestrians.
- introduce more 20mph limits for areas where there is support from local residents.
- use Edinburgh's Streets Ahead Partnership as a starting point for a Streets Ahead Plus scheme that will use trained local volunteers to identify potential road safety problems (speeding, hazardous parking at schools, misuse of cycling and pedestrian areas) to be addressed by targeting those responsible and raising awareness.
- implement further 'Resident Priority Parking' zones where there is demand and support from residents; and convert parking bays to dual use where there is local support and funds allow.
- support measures to make driveway access protection lines enforceable; increase the length of lines, where appropriate; and review the way this service is delivered with a view to reducing the cost.
- support expansion of Hermiston Park and Ride site and develop further sites in response to identified demand.
- strengthen the "Edinburgh Road Works Ahead" agreement to reduce the disruption caused by roadworks. We will invest in better traffic modelling, better signage and better warning to road and footway users; press the Roads Commissioner to improve the way utilities works are managed and inspected; and lobby the Scottish Government to introduce "lane charges" to compensate for disruption and to encourage speedier completions.
- deliver quick, clean, reliable, commercial tram operations from Edinburgh Airport to the east end of York Place, by 2014 at the latest, with Lothian Buses as operator and trams fully integrated with buses, including through ticketing.
- continue support to businesses for mitigation measures in relation to the ongoing tram works.
- present a revised business case for the extension of the tram line down Leith Walk and consider the best way to get trams to Little France.
- trial carrying bikes on trams within the first six months of service.
- welcome and cooperate fully in any Public Inquiry into the tram project.
- maintain Lothian Buses in public ownership and continue to support Lothian Buses in improving accessibility and sustainability across the network.

- continue to ensure that no-one in Edinburgh is more than 10 minutes' walk away from a regular bus service through the provision of supported bus services where necessary.
- continue heavy investment in the provision of bus priority infrastructure, information and enforcement systems.
- continue to lobby the Scottish Government to reverse the Bus Service Operators' Grant cuts, implemented in April 2012, that affect urban operators particularly severely.
- unless there is compelling evidence that voluntary actions will deliver the traffic air pollution reductions required to improve air quality in the next three years, to promote Low Emission Zone(s) and target the highest polluting older buses and lorries.
- promote and support use of low emission technology within Council vehicle fleet; and use the level of pollution from vehicles as part of the quality criteria in the provision of contracted services.
- continue to reduce Council air travel within the UK.
- work with Edinburgh Airport's new owners to improve passenger experience and access and to promote more direct flights to international destinations from Edinburgh.
- support opening of a station at Abbeyhill.
- support electrification of the South Suburban freight line as a precursor to passenger services; and continue to support the reintroduction of passenger services on the South Sub.
- continue to support Scotland's inclusion in the national High Speed Rail (HSR) project and identify a terminus for HSR in Edinburgh after the announcement, expected in Autumn 2012, is made on the route alignment north of Leeds/Manchester.

Keep up-to-date with Edinburgh Liberal Democrat news and view this manifesto online at: www.edinburghlibdems.org.uk



“The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. We champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, we acknowledge and respect their right to freedom of conscience and their right to develop their talents to the full. We aim to disperse power, to foster diversity and to nurture creativity. We believe that the role of the state is to enable all citizens to attain these ideals, to contribute fully to their communities and to take part in the decisions which affect their lives.

These are the conditions of liberty and social justice which it is the responsibility of each citizen and the duty of the state to protect and enlarge. The Liberal Democrats consist of women and men working together for the achievement of these aims.”

From the Scottish Liberal Democrat Constitution
