

Greener Fairer Better



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THE EDINBURGH GREEN PARTY
MANIFESTO FOR EDINBURGH 2012

Introduction

Greens won seats on Edinburgh City Council for the first time in 2007 with the introduction of fairer voting. Your three Councillors have worked hard to support the communities they represent and to pursue Green policies for Edinburgh. By electing more Green Councillors you will bring closer the policies set out in this manifesto.

Green Councillors will fight for social and environmental justice. Green Councillors want to empower communities and re-engage the people in running their city. Only Green Councillors have consistently opposed privatisation of public services.

We are now seeking your support to build on that hard work.

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A Green future for Edinburgh

Edinburgh is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and one of the best places to live. However, it is an increasingly unfair city, while its superb environment is continually being eroded. Greens will protect and improve the quality of life in Edinburgh and ensure that it is more equally enjoyed by all residents. That is why our Green policies for Edinburgh are based on three main principles:

Harnessing the creativity and imagination of individuals and communities - giving people back their city

Turning recession into opportunity - creating meaningful jobs

Investing in services early - heading off future problems

Until recently, many parents were given the message that their help in decorating or improving their children's school was not welcome. While new guidelines have now been issued a more thorough approach is needed to ensure that community talents are harnessed.

GIVING PEOPLE BACK THEIR CITY

We want to see a radically different approach to running our city from that of the current or previous administrations. We will return power to communities and localise decisions to address what matters to people. This will create more resilient communities and unleash the power and creativity of Edinburgh's citizens.

To achieve this we will:

Ensure people can have their say about what matters in their communities by reviewing locally elected bodies - Community Councils and Neighbourhood Partnerships - to fit better with, and properly represent, their communities.

Devolve decisions and budgets to these local bodies and ensure they have officer support to help them play their role effectively.

Ensure residents have a real say in decision-making on major issues in their area, using methods that allow contributions from lots of participants.

Commit at least 1% of the Council's budget to participatory budgeting.

Feith Decides has been pioneered by the Greens. It has proved a highly popular form of "participatory budgeting" - putting decisions on spending in localities directly in the hands of local people.

CREATING MEANINGFUL JOBS

We will use every opportunity to create worthwhile jobs. There is no shortage of work to be done. For example, by using new forms of raising investment from future gains or savings, employment can be created insulating homes and public buildings and building a new green infrastructure for the city. Maximising employment is essential to prevent the younger generation having their lives blighted by the financial crisis, and it is fundamental to the Green goal of social justice.

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To achieve this we will:

- Pursue a programme of house insulation starting in the most disadvantaged areas and increase the number of apprenticeships in Edinburgh, working with the Scottish Funding Council and local colleges.
- Boost employment through a Council policy of buying local.
- Re-focus business advice on local shops and businesses to create thriving local centres and local jobs.
- Support local jobs and services to protect us from the whims of the global market place and multi-national chains.
- Create a local currency for Edinburgh to increase local spending and investment.

ACTING NOW TO HEAD OFF FUTURE PROBLEMS

Last year's Christie Commission on Public Services demonstrated that up to 45% of local public expenditure is 'negative'. It deals with the consequences of problems rather than preventing them from occurring. The Greens will commit to changing the balance of spending by focusing on programmes of early action. This is important for social wellbeing, cuts long-term costs and allows more to be invested in our communities.

Greens will deliver the services that equip us and our communities to flourish. We will identify and support the contribution many make to our communities, and build on our strengths. We want to help people contribute more, spend less on crises and ensure our city is more equal.

To achieve this we will:

- Invest in children's early years and support families to give their children the best start in life.
- Protect community, leisure and sporting facilities from closure and invest in them to build the social fabric of our communities.
- Improve health and reduce pollution by investing in public transport, an accessible and safe cycling network, and measures to make walking easier and more enjoyable for all.
- Develop a long-term plan so that Edinburgh has secure renewable energy supplies.
- Create a Voluntary Sector Endowment Fund, by creating income from truly non-essential Council assets, to sustain community and voluntary organisations.

Paying for council services

We believe that governments need to be accountable for the money they raise and how they spend it. That is one of the main themes in the debate about the constitutional future of Scotland. The same is true of local government. That is why the ongoing Council Tax freeze is so problematic. Greens are as critical of the Council Tax as other parties but we also want to work with other councils to give democratically-elected councils the scope to decide on the level of local taxation.

We want to work with our Green MSP colleagues to introduce a fairer land value tax to replace Council Tax. In the more immediate future we'd also work with Green MSPs to reform Council Tax to reflect changes in house values. We want to explore use of newer forms of raising money for services such as Social Impact Bonds, a hotel visitor levy, extra council tax on empty homes and endowments.

As well as reforming how we raise money, we will also reform how the Council decides to spend it. The annual budget-setting process is currently a farce with political groups each being forced to develop budgets in isolation. This is enormously wasteful of staff time, prevents sharing of good ideas and inhibits proper scrutiny of spending. We will revamp it.

Greens will:

- Explore ways of capturing future savings or increases in property value to fund home insulation and investment in Green infrastructure and jobs.
- Trial Social Impact Bonds in partnership with public sector bodies such as NHS Lothian, the Department of Work and Pensions and the police.
- Lobby for a visitor levy on hotels to fund investment in the city.
- Use new powers to increase Council Tax on long-term empty homes.
- Reform the current annual budget process.

It has been estimated that the number plate S0, attached to the Lord Provost's car, has a market value of £500,000.

Greens support Land Value Tax to replace Council Tax and business rates. We will explore similar ideas like Tax Incremental Financing which also seek to finance public works from increases in property value.

Some projects make sense because they save money for other services - for example, befriending services for older people can delay dementia. Often these projects are underfunded because it is difficult to measure their impact. Social Impact Bonds are a form of funding which reduce demand on frontline services and measure that impact. The service provider is then funded from the savings produced by the reduced demand on frontline services. It is a way of taking the savings and using them to invest up-front.

Developing the city economy

Green candidates Chas Booth and Peter McColl have been heavily involved in the successful bid for funding for a community-owned wind turbine at Seafield.

The financial crisis shows the enormous risks of basing an economy on vast companies that owe no loyalties to localities or allegiances to the future. Greens believe Edinburgh's economy should develop in ways that can be sustained and which do not place heavy costs on future generations. We should seek to expand sectors based on harnessing renewable energy. The city's economy should place local production and distribution centre-stage, requiring investment in local businesses. We want to see Edinburgh's local and social businesses thrive. We should ensure that what we consume is fairly produced and traded and what we pay for it takes full account of all the costs of producing it. Our economy should provide opportunities for all to contribute to it, by providing training, skills and jobs and it should promote greater equality and fairness. Elsewhere in Europe local currencies have retained spending, saving and investment in local shops, manufacturing and services: this should be piloted here.

Green councillors' advocacy of the Living Wage will help to reduce poverty and make the city more equal, and we welcome other parties' adoption of the Living Wage policy.

Greens will:

- Expand employment, primarily through Green jobs in renewable energy, insulation and recycling and re-fitting programmes.
- Increase the number of apprenticeships in Edinburgh, working with the Scottish Funding Council and local colleges.
- Introduce a comprehensive home insulation programme for Edinburgh, starting in the most disadvantaged communities.
- Build on the city's success in hosting the Green Investment Bank to ensure that Edinburgh becomes a world capital for research in, and manufacture for, renewable energy.
- Capitalise on the Council as one of the largest spenders in the city by buying services from local businesses by using "community benefit clauses".
- Work to create a Living Wage city, where the Council and Council contractors pay a Living Wage (currently set at £7.20) and where other employers are accredited as they sign up to it.
- Create a local currency for Edinburgh to increase local spending and investment in local shops and businesses.
- Ensure that service contracts are based on social and environmental impact, not just cost - in doing so, allowing the city's voluntary and not-for-profit sector to compete equally
- Encourage voluntary sector trading and co-operative businesses by widening access to Business Gateway funds.
- Consult with communities, voluntary sector organisations and local businesses to create a 20 year plan to reduce the city's dependence on fossil fuels.

Throughout the period 2007-2012 Greens have given renewables and energy efficiency a high priority: in travel, schools, homes and in council buildings. In 2010 we sought support for a motion on establishing an Edinburgh Renewable Energy Development Company.

In 2011 Green councillors successfully persuaded other councillors to trial a local currency in Portobello.

Revitalising democracy

People are fed up with the “we-know-best” Council. Greens believe that decisions on how to run Council services and spend Council money should be as devolved as possible. Greens will make every effort to empower communities and individuals, give them back power over their Council and make Council information freely available. We believe that participation in our democratic structures should be extended to 16 and 17 year olds.

To empower communities and individuals Greens will:

- Devolve budgets to communities following a review of Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Councils.
- Hold consultative meetings with communities on major issues affecting them which will steer how councillors should vote.
- Include more people in Council decision-making by using participatory planning processes.
- Make Edinburgh an “open-data city” where the presumption is that Council and associated company data will be publicly available
- Web-cast Council meetings.
- Give community groups and trusts the right to buy assets being disposed of by the Council.
- Allow citizens to bring ideas to the Council through a petitions system similar to that in the Scottish Parliament.
- Seek to include 16 and 17 year olds in elections and work with universities and colleges to automatically register students to vote.
- Re-direct money currently used for the Council’s “Outlook” newspaper into supporting community news providers.

Among the Green candidates who have been active chairs or members of community councils are Nigel Bagshaw, Melanie Main, Peter McColl and Gavin Corbett.

Planning the city

Planning is vital to maintaining a beautiful city with enjoyable public spaces, parks and buildings. These are of central importance to a fairer city. Greens will actively use the planning process to improve the city by:

Establishing a fund for communities to challenge developers who persistently seek to re-open Planning Committee decisions.

Opening up Planning Committee meetings to allow community representatives to express views on the decisions that affect their area.

Carrying out a review of and introducing proper management of Common Good assets.

Integrating planning decisions with transport strategy.

Ensuring the Edinburgh Local Plan is underpinned by the need for sustainable communities.

Supporting local retailers and protecting high streets by presuming against further supermarket developments.

Ensuring the city's Open Space Strategy is delivered to protect and enhance open spaces.

Requiring that planning applications, where relevant, are designed to maximize pedestrian and cycle safety and ease of movement.

Encouraging land owners to release land for community gardens and allotments.

Greens have exposed the woeful way that Edinburgh's Common Good assets are managed, illustrated by the virtual giving away of a prime site, Waverley Market, to a private developer.

Green candidate Melanie Main has been working hard with local traders and residents to seek alternatives to a Sainsbury store in Bruntsfield.

Green candidate Nigel Bagshaw was one of the main leaders of the successful campaign to head off development on Inverleith Park.

In 2010 Green councillors secured Council commitment to improve the way neighbours were notified about changes in planning applications.

Supporting the voluntary sector and community organisations

Greens recognise the important role many community and voluntary projects and social enterprises have in building stronger communities and a better city. These organisations also save the Council and government substantial amounts of money. Children are often diverted from the justice system by youth clubs. Older people are kept out of expensive care homes and hospital by social care organisations. But the potential of these organisations is often limited by under-funding and short term contracts. The Council is signed up to long term contracts with the private sector through PPP and its Oracle procurement system so should extend the same time horizons to the voluntary and social enterprise sector.

Greens will support this sector by:

Following a 'co-production' approach, in which we will develop respectful, trusting and purposeful relationships between service users and service delivery organisations to design and deliver services.

Creating a voluntary sector funding strategy, end the current administration's cut-throat tendering practices and support community groups through a return to grant funding.

Introducing 5-year funding as the norm for voluntary sector groups, reducing the cost of administering grants, reducing uncertainty and allowing investment.

Creating a Voluntary Sector Endowment by deriving income from truly non-essential Council assets. This will help sustain social enterprises and voluntary, community and youth groups. It will be totally independent of the Council, and so reduce the dependency of not-for-profit groups on government funding.

Supporting the core costs of organisations involved in the strategic work of the Council and Community Planning Partnership.

Supporting Credit Unions and social lending through Council programmes to widen access to financial products and prohibiting advertising for high interest 'pay day loans' on Council property.

In 2007 Green councillors called for 5 year contracts for voluntary sector providers. We have also sought backing for reduced business rates for social enterprise.

An Edinburgh that cares

Green councillors led the way in preventing deeply unpopular and damaging changes to social care services, by ensuring that the full Council voted on - and rejected - it.

Greens believe that improving well-being should be one of the primary objectives of government. We believe that supporting old people and vulnerable adults to live independently allows them better care, more autonomy, stronger links with families and greater opportunities to contribute to our communities.

Greens acknowledge the massive contribution made by statutory and voluntary sector social work to helping people live fulfilling lives. However, for too long our most vulnerable have suffered from poorly funded services and overloaded staff, generating expensive social problems in the future. When purchasing care, service quality is as important as price, and Greens will ensure the values of public service weigh more than the profit motive of the private sector.

In 2009 Green councillors sought backing for the Council to report annually on how the city was faring against a wider set of wellbeing indicators.

To create a healthier, caring city and reduce health inequalities Greens will:

- Increase resources for social work and helping deliver an excellent service by trialling Social Impact Bonds.
- Measure our progress using a comprehensive well-being indicator. This will assess the impact of our policies on quality of life for individuals, communities and the city.
- Support moves to help people personalise their care and so maximise their independence, while ensuring that there is capacity to provide care if less assertive users of services need it.
- Prioritise social needs as well as care needs in care contracts, thus boosting wellbeing by maximising connections with families, friends and communities.
- Provide more support to carers through carers' assessments, plans for emergencies, and regular time off from their responsibilities, and help older carers to plan for the future when they are no longer able to care.
- Support local community health projects and community centres that promote healthy, active lifestyles, particularly in more disadvantaged areas.
- Prioritise a welfare rights and income maximisation service for those on disability and other benefits.

In the face of indifference from all other parties, Green councillors stood alone in winning a reprieve for Leith Waterworld, giving the community breathing space to look at options for re-opening it.

Greens will ensure there is responsive care for vulnerable children and families, prevent crime, reduce re-offending and support victims of crime by:

- Ensuring that families who need extra help can find it in local, friendly, welcoming family and children centres.
- Supporting preventative justice measures: for example, by matching appropriate offenders, on release, with volunteers who hold them to account for their behaviour, so reducing re-offending rates.
- Working with the courts and police to pursue restorative justice, to help victims recover from crime and rehabilitate offenders, but only with victims' consent.

Strengthening communities

Green councillors played a central role in promoting the Climate Challenge Fund, a Green MSP-led initiative which has supported community projects in Edinburgh to the tune of well over £1 million.

Vibrant communities are at the heart of the Green vision for Edinburgh. By investing in them we can repair some of the social divisions that scar the city. Communities with more services provided locally can reverse the tide of centralisation which is at the root of many of Edinburgh's traffic congestion problems. The Council and other public agencies currently own land and hundreds of properties that could be put to community use. Much more could be done to mobilise people's readiness to help each other, particularly the old and vulnerable, thus saving considerable Council expenditure.

Quality of life is central to Green politics, making leisure and culture high priorities. It is important that we protect our sporting facilities, and Greens have been prominent in campaigns to save Leith Waterworld and Meadowbank Stadium, among others.

To promote caring, thriving, economically successful communities Greens will:

Green candidate Gavin Corbett led on setting up Shandon Local Food Group in 2009, based on the theme of "building community through food". The group now has 250 members and hosts a series of hugely popular local events.

- Allow communities the right to buy Council properties not core to Council services, following a local referendum and the creation of a Community Trust.
- Create endowments for communities using proceeds from planning agreements with developers.
- Support local Time Banks, in co-operation with the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh to encourage volunteering and begin to properly value the core economy of caring and domestic labour.
- Promote formal and informal programmes of neighbourhood care, such as helping out older neighbours or community organisations running lunch clubs, and outings.
- Encourage the installation of community owned renewables and local heat and power schemes, funded through sources such as Green Deal and planning gain. We will work towards new developments using 100% renewable energy, with 20% generated on-site.
- Support communities to shape Community Service Orders to benefit relevant local projects.
- Defend accessible, affordable sport and leisure facilities as a cost effective means of reducing demands on the health budget and becoming a more active city.
- Protect existing Council leisure facilities from closure and support the re-opening of Leith Waterworld, either as a publicly-owned facility or as a community-owned social enterprise.
- Maintain support for Edinburgh's festivals and community arts.
- Use local environment budgets to set up more community gardens on spare land and provide courses for growing fruit and vegetables.
- Increase farmers' markets across the city.

Education for today and tomorrow

Greens believe that high quality education for all is fundamental to achieving a socially just future. We have opposed many school closures because they undermine the vitality of communities and disadvantage the poorest most. Greens will strengthen schools' roles at the heart of their local communities, maximising community input and use of buildings.

Children learn at their fastest rate when they are very young, and high quality nursery services can alleviate the consequences of poor parenting and deprivation. Investment in nursery schooling is therefore one of the most cost-effective ways of addressing inequalities.

Greens recognise that further and higher education has a vital role to play in ensuring a high quality of life in Edinburgh, and creating a sustainable future.

We will improve education by:

- Consulting staff carefully on the pace by which the Curriculum for Excellence is introduced.
- Investing more in nursery schools and teachers and extending free nursery education for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Supporting nurseries in areas of greatest need to employ nursery teachers.
- Providing programmes in disadvantaged areas to help parents support their children's education and provide a positive home learning environment.
- Decentralising more power and budgets to schools and giving Parent Councils more influence by reviewing the city parental involvement strategy .
- Investing in school buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce long term costs.
- Establishing a 'Food for Life' school meals pilot, providing fresh locally-sourced meals for children as an alternative to junk food.
- Building on links between schools and their communities by expanding the times available for out of hours lets.

Green candidate Peter McColl became the rector of Edinburgh University in early 2012. In this he follows Robin Harper and Mark Ballard, both of whom served as rectors while Green MSPs. Peter has made dealing with accommodation problems one of his big priorities, along with campaigning on fees.

In 2008 Green candidate, Gavin Corbett, as chair of his local primary school parent council set up Edinburgh Parent Councils Network - a parent-led forum for exchanging ideas on how to improve schools.

Craiglockhart Primary School in the south west of the city recently carried out a study of energy use and concluded that up to £6,000 a year could be saved by investing in energy efficiency and controls. Green councillors have secured a commitment for better energy planning in schools.

Better housing

Edinburgh is often seen as a housing market hotspot, but that has left many people excluded from the market or struggling with poor quality, high cost rented housing. We want to expand affordable housing, ensure it can be heated at reasonable cost and that it contributes to flourishing communities. Green councillors will:

Tackle fuel poverty through a comprehensive home insulation programme and exploit opportunities to introduce local and renewable energy provision in homes.

Commit to implementing the national statutory target to house all homeless people by the end of 2012, and introduce a consistent standard for all temporary accommodation owned or commissioned by the Council.

Maximise the Council's power to limit the selling off of council and housing association homes through 'right to buy'.

Use new powers to increase council tax on long-term empty homes and use that money for affordable housing and returning empty homes to use.

Enforce planning agreements so that housing developers actually deliver on commitments to provide affordable homes.

Make cooperative stair partnerships more enforceable and landlords responsible for incremental improvements to property through cumulative financing from a common stair fund.

Take firm action on private landlords and letting agents who flout the law - for example, by charging tenancy fees; support landlords who are committed to improving their practice; and ensure that HMO owners manage their properties properly.

Require all landlords to lodge tenancy deposits with an independent body which can judge when tenants should get their deposit back.

In 2007 Green councillors won Council backing to identify and take firm action on long term empty homes - a commitment on which the Council has so far failed to deliver.

Green councillors have sought council backing for a comprehensive home insulation programme, drawing on inspiration from Green councillors on Kirklees Council in Yorkshire.

Modernising transport

Greens are committed to active and public transport and believe the needs of the 40% of households without cars should have greater consideration. We are opposed to the proposed massive expansion of Edinburgh airport and the climate-changing pollution it would cause. We want a step change in street design so that all users - pedestrians, drivers and cyclists - feel confident to use them safely.

The transport debate in Edinburgh has been dominated by the way the tram project has been mismanaged by the SNP-Lib Dem Council. In the face of that mismanagement, the Greens backed the decision to revise the route to St Andrew's Square but sought assurances that the revised arrangements and budget would be adhered to.

Green councillors have campaigned for improved cycle-safety measures and secured improvements such as freeing up the cycle lanes on the Mound and pushing for 20mph zones.

We will work towards ensuring that Edinburgh is accessible for all its citizens by:

• Prioritising public transport to increase reliability and reduced journey times and maintaining supported bus services.

• Keeping Lothian Buses in public hands and accelerating the introduction of buses which reduce pollution.

• Appointing a Travel Advice Officer to advise workplaces on sustainable travel.

• With NHS Lothian, improving community transport and reducing taxi costs.

• Reopening the South Suburban line.

• Bringing together all partners to strengthen the City's Road Safety and Active Travel Action Plans, to make our streets safer and more suitable for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists, including partial pedestrianisation of Princes Street.

• Introducing low emission zones to improve air quality and health.

• Making the existing network of walking and cycling routes comprehensive across the city, incorporating Safe Routes to School and making sure that school travel plans, with cycle training, are actually implemented.

• Investing £10 per head of population in cycling by 2017.

• Introducing dedicated off-road cycle lanes, implemented incrementally with routine road upgrading and so minimising extra cost.

• Extending 20mph limits and other road safety measures where communities want them, prioritising disadvantaged areas where accident rates are highest.

• Further reducing the blighting of local communities by commuter parking through resident priority schemes and better marketing of Park and Ride schemes.

• Ensuring that new developments allow access by foot, bike and public transport and have good cycle parking.

• Creating a cycle share or bike leasing scheme to help meet the Council's target of 15% of all trips in Edinburgh made by bike by 2020. In the longer-term we want Edinburgh to become one of Europe's leading cycle cities.

• Requiring work-related long-distance flights by staff or councillors to be approved by full Council, in the meantime, making much better use of other forms of transport and video-conferencing.

Green councillors pushed for and secured Scotland's first "Park Green" scheme, where owners of smaller or low-polluting vehicles pay significantly lower charges for parking permits.

Securing our environment

Green MSPs and councillors were the first of any political party to expose the flimsy environmental claims of the proposed large scale biomass plant in Leith.

Greens recognise that "the environment" is not just another area of policy, to be tackled after the economy, or schools, or health. Protecting and enhancing the environment runs through all of our policies, as well as these specific measures on pollution, waste and green space. We will:

- Protect Edinburgh's green belt and seek to develop green wedges into the city.
- Set a robust presumption against any further building on the City's precious green spaces.
- Continue to improve the quality of our parks and make under-used spaces accessible to everyone.
- Make sure communities have a real say over how their parks should be used and developed.
- Allocate funds to environmental volunteering projects, through the Time Bank, and other initiatives to improve the local environment.
- Continuing to oppose large-scale biomass incineration in Edinburgh.

Greens will create a more liveable, cleaner and "zero waste" city by:

- In all of the Council's policies embedding sustainable development and the need to address climate change, in line with the national target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020.
- Making re-cycling easier, particularly for those in tenements, to achieve at least 70% recycling in Edinburgh, and opposing incineration of household waste.
- Seeking to include Edinburgh in the growing number of cities which are plastic bag free.
- Working with businesses and individuals to reduce consumption and better regulation of commercial and industrial waste.
- Supporting initiatives for re-use, like the Freegle email list and Waste Action Grants
- Piloting a community rebate to neighbourhood groups which reduce their waste to landfill beyond set targets, paid directly to communities, thus incentivising a massive increase in recycling.
- Enhancing the environmental warden service in tackling fly-tipping and dog-fouling.

Green councillors have sought support for motions on:

- Re-use and repair schemes
- Tenement back green projects
- Plastic bag reduction
- Recycling in schools and parks
- Waste minimisation programmes

And many others!

Ethics and equality

Greens believe that Edinburgh should be a world leader in making a commitment to ethical administration and should ensure that its policies promote greater social equality. Our councillors have urged the Council to pursue these goals. Greens want to create an ethical and more equal city by:

- Working with the many human rights and environmental organisations in the city to create an Ethical Edinburgh Policy, involving ethical procurement and investment for the Council.
- Taking a firm stance on organisations or individuals who indulge in homophobia, race hatred or any other form of discrimination.
- Developing the range of tools which the Council might use to ensure that its policies and spending decisions support its aims on tackling inequality.
- Introducing equalities budgeting, building on pioneering work on gender budgeting.
- Developing an animal welfare policy for the city, to include both domestic pets and wild animals.

Green councillors obtained Council backing for International Day against Homophobia.

Since 2008, Green councillors have argued that the Lothian Pension Fund should be invested according to ethical principles.

In 2010 Green councillors won the case for a cruelty-free policy to be used for products bought by the Council.

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