

City of Edinburgh Elections  
Thursday 5 May 2022

**SNP** 

# EDINBURGH:

a European capital  
for the future



## Our plan for the city

Read more inside



GENERATION KEPT SERVICES PUBLIC DOUBLE  
INCREASES UNDER 3% 68,000  
REAL PAYMENTS KEPT SERVICES PUBLIC DOUBLE  
PROVISION TO 1,140 HOURS FOUGHT PRIVATISATION NO COM  
REDUNDANCIES SET UP POVERTY COMMISSION INCREASED COUNCIL SPENDING  
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For the past five years, your SNP councillors have been working hard with your SNP-led Scottish Government to take our city forward. 2017-2022 is the first time that Edinburgh has been led by the SNP. While we've rolled up our sleeves and achieved so much, there is still much to do to make sure that Edinburgh's success as a vibrant European capital city is shared by everyone.

This is the strongest team we have ever put forward for election and the first time we are standing a field of candidates who are properly gender balanced and reflect the diverse ethnicities and citizenships of our residents. We have built up the experience our city needs and pushed new ideas forward.

We have the vision and the priorities to ensure our city comes back stronger, greener and fairer from the pandemic. This manifesto sets out our bold plans to build on progress; tackling climate change, reducing poverty and improving everyday council services.

We can only do this by investing in the services that matter most to our residents. Making sure everyone has access to the amazing opportunities in our city by investing in initiatives we know will improve life chances. And investing in the solutions to climate change to avoid global and local environmental catastrophe that will impact all our lives.

We love Edinburgh. And we know our city needs change to meet our ambitions of becoming net-zero and eradicating poverty by 2030. We offer that change and we stand on a track record of delivery ready to go further.

The solutions we offer are in many cases tried and tested. They are learned from the cities around Europe and beyond who are leading in these areas. We dare to imagine a better Edinburgh for you, your family and your community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam McVey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

**Adam McVey,**  
SNP Group Leader

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# Delivering for Edinburgh

*We've made huge strides in taking our city forward since you elected the first ever SNP-led administration for Edinburgh in 2017. That is despite the enormous challenges of the pandemic, a hard Tory Brexit this city rejected and more than a decade of Westminster austerity. Here are just ten of the SNP's most significant achievements in making Edinburgh a better place for everyone who lives here.*

- **We've built 1,100 energy efficient, affordable homes a year**, more than doubled the number of new council houses being completed and secured new powers from the Scottish Government to turn short-term lets back into homes for local people.
- **We've delivered the best possible start for young people** by building EIGHT new schools and employing 400 more teachers and classroom assistants, while protecting free music tuition and beginning the provision of iPads for every pupil in the city from P6 upwards.
- **We've negotiated a £1.3bn City Deal**, bringing over 21,000 jobs, helping put Edinburgh at the forefront of emerging tech sectors like robotics and medical science.
- **We've delivered our promise to double free nursery provision** to 1,140 hours per child, giving them the best possible start while supporting working parents.
- **We've won Living Wage City status for Edinburgh** from the Scottish Living Wage Foundation, and more than tripled the number of council contracts now going to accredited living wage employers.
- **We've cut the Council's carbon footprint by around 60%**, secured £7.7m of SNP Scottish Government funding to massively increase on-street recycling and planted 50,000 trees.
- **We've made record investment of more than £170m** in roads, paths, pavements and bridges, making Edinburgh's road condition now better than the Scottish average to extend the life of critical infrastructure.
- **We've protected and improved local leisure facilities** and invested in major projects like the new Meadowbank and world-class Dunard Concert Hall project, while supporting the reopening of Leith Theatre and refurbishment of the King's.
- **We've created a free face-to-face service** (opposed by the Conservatives) that helped thousands of EU citizens living in Edinburgh secure settled status after Brexit.
- **We've safeguarded Lothian Buses' future** as a successful, publicly owned service with a £70m package of council and Scottish Government Covid support.

# Delivering for Edinburgh

**SNP** 



# Delivering for You Locally

## Almond

Investment in the Burnshot Bridge. Regeneration of Pennywell Road with 356 new affordable homes in Muirhouse.

## Drumbrae/Gyle

New forest kindergarten facility on Corstorphine Hill. Designed and budgeted for a new primary school, nursery and health centre at West Craigs.

## Corstorphine/Murrayfield

Investment to deliver community café and accessible toilet in Roseburn Park. Delivery of pedestrian crossing on the A8 at Kaimes Road.

## Sighthill/Gorgie

New Tynecastle High School. Saughton Park £8m renovation with UK's first micro hydro installation. North Sighthill Housing Development.

## Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart

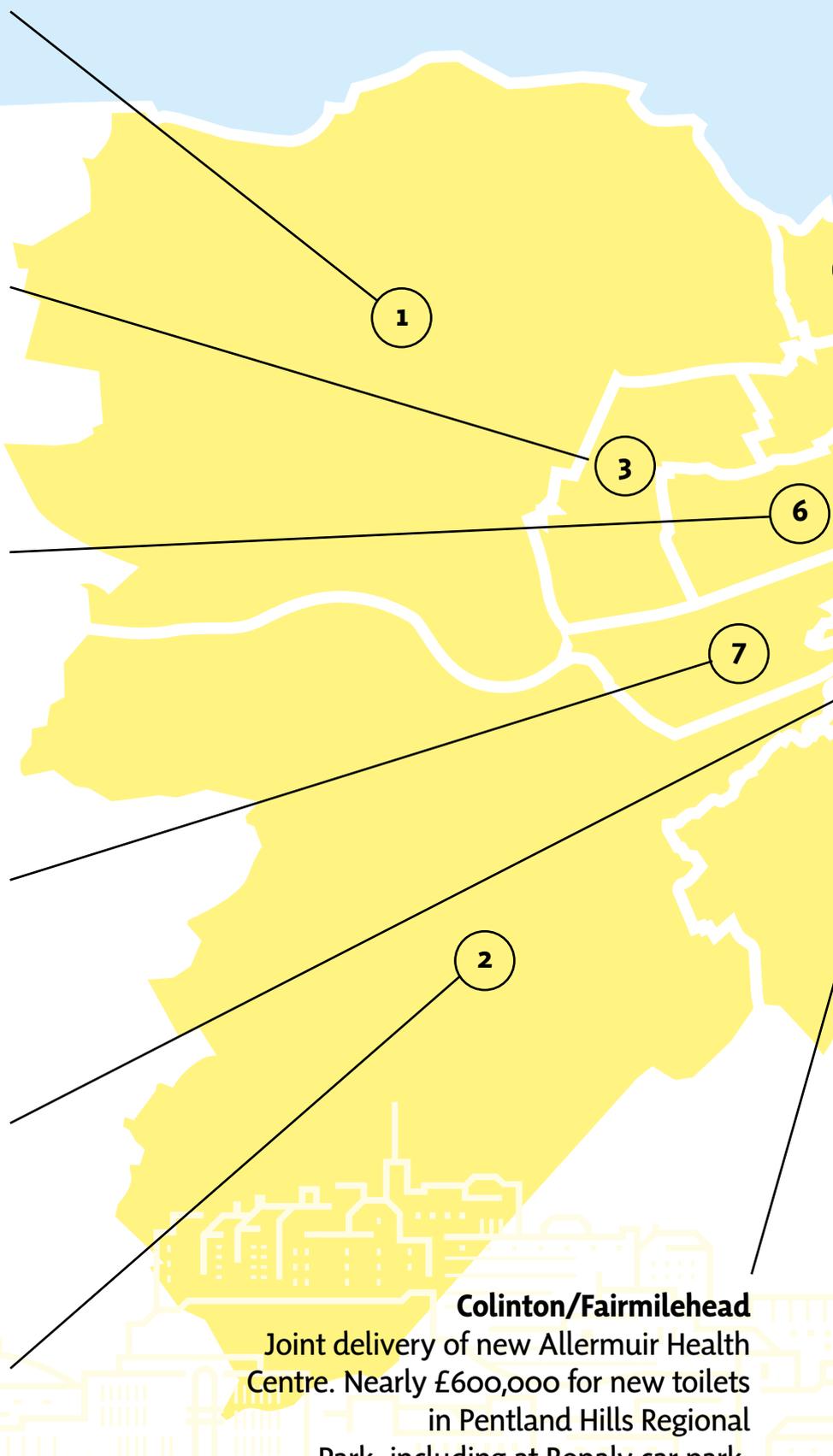
New Boroughmuir High School building. Supported opening of new creative hub at Printmakers in Fountainbridge.

## Pentland Hills

Improvements to Balerno High. Murrayburn Housing upgrades. Investment in Pentland Hills Regional Park.

## Colinton/Fairmilehead

Joint delivery of new Allermuir Health Centre. Nearly £600,000 for new toilets in Pentland Hills Regional Park, including at Bonaly car park.



## Forth

444 new homes being built as part of West Granton regeneration, made up of social rent, mid-market rents, market rents and homes for sale. Former Victoria Primary School building in community hands.

## Inverleith

Major £125k refurbishment of Glenogle Swim Centre. Installation of CCTV on Drylaw Pathway tackling antisocial behaviour.

## Leith

New £300,000 playpark at Leith Links. New Victoria Primary School building.

## Leith Walk

Extending tram route from York Place – vital public transport for Scotland’s most densely populated neighbourhood. Worked with the community on Stead’s Place to ensure developer arrived at a proposal more in keeping with local people’s wishes.

## Portobello/Craigmillar

New Castlebrae High School (opening April 2022). Portobello Town Hall in community hands. New park at Little France.

## City Centre

Delivered new St James shopping centre. Supported refurbishment of King’s Theatre.

## Craightinny/Duddingston

New Meadowbank Sports Centre (opening May 2022). New nursery at Craightinny Primary School.

## Liberton/Gilmerton

New primary school at Frogston Road – first entirely new primary school in the city since the 1980s. Gilmerton Road resurfaced, with added crossings.

## Southside/Newington

£1.4m investment in Nicolson Street/Clerk Street/Newington Road A7 corridor - resurfacing road and pavements, with pedestrian improvements. Improvements to lighting in the Innocent Railway tunnel.

## Morningside

New Canaan Lane Primary School. St Oswald’s church and hall in community hands with £406,000 council funding to support refurbishment.

# Our Vision for Our City

***We think Edinburgh is the best city in the world, a European capital we are proud of. But we also think Edinburgh needs to be cleaner, greener and fairer. Our residents deserve the best and we will work as hard as we can to deliver the best possible city for our constituents to live in. We will continue to reform core services, keeping them publicly owned, and take the difficult decisions needed to make progress in areas like waste, street cleaning and traffic management. We are steadfast in our commitment to doing everything we can to end poverty in Edinburgh and fight the Tory government while they push thousands of our children into deprivation. We are also resolute in tackling climate change and you can be sure a vote for the SNP at this election is a vote for actions to cut carbon emissions to get us to net-zero by 2030.***

- **We will deliver billions in sustainable development, from the £1.3bn City Deal** securing 21,000 new jobs, the £1bn+ regeneration of Edinburgh's waterfront at Granton and the enormous opportunities for our residents through the BioQuarter –which is putting Edinburgh at the forefront of medical science. This will not only keep Edinburgh's economy strong, but make it fairer and greener where more residents feel the benefits and can access opportunities.
- **This is an extraordinarily difficult time for many people**, so we need to focus valuable resources where they are needed most in dealing with the impact of Covid and the Tory cost of living crisis. We will work with partners to implement the recommendations of the Poverty Commission, including a **massive programme of social housebuilding**, improving uptake in benefits, and breaking down barriers to accessing local services.
- **We worked hard to secure the agreement of the Scottish Government for a Tourist Tax** and, with 90% of residents supporting the plan, we will implement it to ensure that Edinburgh's vibrant tourist economy benefits every part of our city and meets the increased demand on services caused by high visitor numbers.

# Our Vision for Our City

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- **Congestion is a major problem for our city** and much of it results from commuter journeys originating outwith Edinburgh – from the rest of the Lothians, Fife and beyond. **We will introduce a commuter charging zone at the city boundary** to discourage those living outwith the city from driving in, encouraging them to switch to bus, tram, train, foot or cycle. No Edinburgh resident – including those living in South Queensferry and the western villages – will ever have to pay the charge. We will use the revenue raised to fund sustainable transport projects, such as new park and ride schemes, across the Lothians.
- **While reducing private car use is vital to tackling the climate crisis** and improving air quality, we recognise that many older and disabled people rely on their cars so **we will set up a new Accessibility Commission** to examine how our whole transport system (including public transport and walking, wheeling and cycling options) can better meet the needs of and empower older and disabled residents.
- To improve city cleanliness and keep Edinburgh beautiful, **we will increase funding for waste and street cleaning year-on-year** - a total package of at least £10m over the lifetime of the next Council to make a step change to reach the standards residents rightly expect.
- **We will set up a young people's assembly.** Following on from Edinburgh's previous Youth Climate Summit, this will help set specific direction on major issues like tackling poverty and climate change but also allow members to bring forward their own priorities that the Council will formally consider.

# A Safe, Warm and Affordable Home for Everyone

*Having a safe, warm home that is affordable and secure is absolutely vital for all of us. The challenges on housing in Edinburgh are well documented. The Right To Buy meant that 40,000 council homes were lost before the SNP ended that policy, leaving us with one of the lowest proportions of social housing in Scotland. And this in a city where rents and house prices are the highest. We've seen the fastest growth in Airbnb, with over ten thousand homes lost and all the while we've seen our population grow. There are no easy fixes. We will continue to find long-term solutions to the underlying problems, investing £2bn in new council homes, tackling Airbnb style short-term lets, investing in the right support to prevent and end homelessness and working with the Scottish Government so that we can deliver rent controls just as soon as the legislation allows.*

# A Safe, Warm and Affordable Home for Everyone

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- **We will deliver the largest expansion of new council homes in generations**, investing £2bn over the next decade. We will power ahead with our ambitious affordable house building programme, meeting our target of 20,000 new affordable homes in Edinburgh 2017-2027. We will work with COSLA and the Scottish Government to ensure fair funding for social housing in Edinburgh, with the target of delivering 2,000 social homes a year by 2030.
- We will also deliver a transformative **£850m investment programme in refurbishing existing council homes** to the highest standards and improving energy efficiency.
- **We will develop a strategy so that residents can affordably retrofit their homes** and we will work with the Scottish Government and others on a Green Deal to make this happen.
- **We will end rough sleeping** in Edinburgh once and for all and extend our existing Housing First and Rapid Rehousing programmes. As we did pre-pandemic, we will ensure that families with children are in suitable accommodation to properly meet their needs.
- **We will build on our existing prevention work to make sure that more people can avoid homelessness altogether**, by supporting them to deal with rent arrears, access rent deposit schemes and get support they need to maintain their existing tenancy.
- Edinburgh is an open and caring city and **we will join the UK's Refugee Resettlement Scheme**, helping vulnerable people fleeing war and upheaval in places like Ukraine and Afghanistan. We will also fight hard to change some of the inhumane policies of the UK Government in this scheme.
- We successfully made the case to the Scottish Government for **robust powers to deal with short-term lets**. We will use these powers fully to curb problem holiday flats. Every property will have to apply for a licence, and planning permission as part of that licence, to finally give the Council the controls needed. Where this returns properties to use as homes for Edinburgh's families, it will tackle antisocial behaviour and housing-supply issues.
- **We will implement a New Deal for Renters**. Once legislation has passed, we will implement a system of rent controls to tackle Edinburgh's increasingly difficult to afford rents. We will work with the Scottish Government to drive up standards in maintenance and energy efficiency in the private rented sector and to further improve protections for private tenants and to gain additional powers to crack down on unregistered and irresponsible landlords.
- **We will commit ongoing funding for empty homes officers** to ensure that vacant properties across the city are brought into use as quickly as possible.

# Giving All Our Children and Young People the Best Possible Start

*'We need to give all our children the best possible start in life, and for those who are care-experienced and looked after, we will place love, safety and respect at the heart of everything we do as corporate parents. We commit to taking this approach throughout the work of the Council to ensure we get it right for every child and make Edinburgh the very best place it can be to grow up. In the face of cruel Tory welfare reform, pushing thousands of our residents towards poverty, we will continue to do everything in our power to improve outcomes for our children and young people.'*

- **We will invest more than £140m in refurbishing existing schools** across every ward and deliver **nine new nurseries, eight new primary schools** (including the replacement for St Catherine RC) and **four replacement high schools** in Currie, Wester Hailes, Liberton and Trinity. We will agree plans for the delivery of a new Gaelic medium secondary school to cater for the growing demand in this sector.

- **We also recognise that there is a need for greater capacity in some schools**, such as Boroughmuir and James Gillespie's and we will work to address this through expansions to these school campuses and others within the next term. A programme of investment in rising rolls will address pressures in other schools over the next five years.
- **We will continue to protect free music tuition in schools** and ensure that every pupil with talent has the opportunity to achieve their potential, whatever their household's circumstances.
- **We will complete the rollout of iPads to pupils in P6 to S6** in the first year of the new council term, making access to digital learning equal across all schools.
- Tackling prejudice must start in schools and so **we will support and promote pupil-led anti-racist and anti-discrimination groups**, by working with headteachers and groups with experience in delivering this, while sharing best practice and promoting inclusion.

# Giving All Our Children and Young People the Best Possible Start

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- **We will enhance and expand the Safe Routes to School network**, offering children and young people a safe and healthy way to school, while reducing the number of car journeys further. We will work with the police and other partners to ensure greater enforcement of School Street Zones where vehicles are excluded from around schools at the start and end of the day.
- **We will increase the budget for youth work by 10%** and we will work with partners in the city on a community commissioning model, to empower young people and local service providers to shape provision better to support our young people, including more community-led groups.
- **We will close the poverty-related attainment gap for children starting school**, by reducing the gap in Early Level Literacy (by the end of P1) to below 20% and we will increase the percentage of pupils achieving Second Level Numeracy by the end of P7 to 85% (an increase of 7%).
- **We will improve rates for attainment**, positive destinations and class attendance for looked after children – fulfilling 'The Promise' to our young people for whom we are proud corporate parents.
- **We will increase resources for pupil support assistants**, prioritising children with additional needs, including care experienced young people.
- **We will look to expand local provision with partners for crèches for ages 0-2**, before the 1,140 hours of nursery provision. This will help give community-based support for new families and open possibilities of work, training and education for parents.

# Planning that Benefits our Local Communities

*The next development plan will shape our city for decades to come. The policies we have developed will help make Edinburgh greener, fairer and support our residents in their communities. The next five years are critical in determining if Edinburgh is successful in tackling the housing challenges, dealing with the climate emergency and successfully delivering opportunities to all our communities.*

- **We will roll out the creation of '20 minute neighbourhoods'**, starting with the areas that have the most to benefit from this approach – with all vital services and amenities being within a 'pram push distance' of home and served by good public transport and active travel connections.
- **To achieve net-zero and protect green belt land from development**, we will deliver a new City Plan which always prioritises building homes on brownfield sites with existing good transport links and strong public services.
- **We will review all existing planning policies** to ensure that these comply with our target of reaching net-zero by 2030. This will include policies to expand domestic renewables, EV charging points and other aspects related to retrofitting energy efficiency and low carbon measures.
- We are proud of our capital's beautiful and historic built environment. **We will preserve our treasured UNESCO World Heritage Sites** – working with Edinburgh World Heritage on our plans for the Old and New Towns and the Forth Bridge.
- We will support community-led, sustainable initiatives aiming at establishing **co-housing, co-operative and other innovative models** on non-Council land.
- **We will facilitate community-led plans for development** and regeneration at **Seafield** and, in the face of UK Government MoD delay and obstruction, at **Redford Barracks**, to deliver the best results for local people, and ensuring that developers of these sites are required to contribute funding for high quality public transport links and other key local amenities.
- **We will progress our vision for Granton Waterfront**, transforming the north of Edinburgh, creating a promenade and coastal park, together with 3,500 new net-zero homes.
- **We will deliver detailed plans for sustainable development and regeneration** in West Edinburgh, Granton, Wester Hailes, the BioQuarter and Fountainbridge as well as delivering the transformation of George Street.
- **Princes Street is iconic** but has been affected by the pandemic and changes to the way people shop. We will continue to work together with the Scottish Government to devise a package of measures to **economically reinvigorate and reimagine our city's most famous street** and its public spaces.

# Planning that Benefits our Local Communities

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# Ensuring Edinburgh's Success Tackles Poverty and Inequality

*The Tory cost of living crisis is hitting our residents hard. The UK Tory Government has reneged on the triple lock pension guarantee, cut Universal Credit and continued with their heartless family cap policy – all deliberate and unnecessary actions which have pushed thousands of our children into poverty. We will continue to do everything we can, using the levers available to us at a council level, to combat the Tories' callous policies and support people who need it most.*

- **We will build on our status as a Living Wage City**, doubling the number of Living Wage-accredited employers and achieve Living Hours City status to become a Fair Work City. As part of this we will work with employers towards ensuring that all employees – including new starting trainees – are paid at the real Living Wage. This will continue the focus on all Council-owned companies and contractors.

- **Technology is changing the nature of work** and this is creating insecure and poorly paid jobs in some sectors, such as takeaway food delivery managed via online platforms. **We will implement the recommendations of Edinburgh's Gig Economy Task Force**, such as working with the trade unions to set up an employment rights hub to support gig economy workers. We will make the case to central government for legislative changes the Task Force identifies.
- **Achieving net zero emissions must go hand-in-hand with a just transition.** An SNP-led Council will lead the way in ensuring that those working in affected sectors, like trades and construction, including within the Council's own workforce, can re-skill and train, enabling them to access jobs in sustainable new industries.
- Through a refreshed economic strategy, **we will deliver a full, fair and green recovery from the Covid pandemic** and address the impact of increased working from home on retail, hospitality and ancillary businesses in the city centre and in employment hubs like the Gyle by encouraging return to city centre offices and maximising opportunities for more companies establishing themselves in central locations.

# Ensuring Edinburgh's Success Tackles Poverty and Inequality

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- Working with other councils across the Lothians, **we will explore a publicly owned company based on the model of Tayside Contracts** to support our presumption in favour of public providers for delivering services such as catering, cleaning and road maintenance. This would deliver better value for money and improved delivery for local services while prioritising public good, not profit.
- Where services are not delivered by a public provider or in-house, **we will seek to further increase provision from local suppliers** wherever possible, following community wealth building principles – maximising the benefit to local small and medium sized firms and redirecting funds back into our city's economy.
- **We will implement in full the recommendations of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.** We will learn from lived experience to improve access to affordable housing, enhanced health services, fair work and secure income, and make it easier to get around the city to take advantage of opportunities Edinburgh has to offer.
- **We will expand the Edinburgh Guarantee – as well as young people,** all residents will have the assurance of work, education or training and we will increase the number of supported apprentices in the Council to 50.
- Through information campaigns and advice services funded or directly run by the Council, **we will support all of our residents to maximise their incomes,** unlocking the estimated £80m in social security payments that go unclaimed in Edinburgh every year and signposting to help with improving energy efficiency in homes to tackle both fuel poverty and emissions.
- **Building on existing measures, we will implement a Safe Way Home policy** – a licensing condition that would require hospitality businesses to ensure they have a plan in place for safe and reliable transport for late-finishing workers to get home.



# The Capital of Culture

*We are proud of Edinburgh's status as the world's festival city and all the benefits that brings. We have the highest participation in the arts of almost any community in the world. We are proud of the diversity and multiculturalism that our vibrant city contains. People have different tastes. But as the capital city of Scotland we can be truly proud of the breadth and depth of our cultural landscape, not only making Edinburgh one of the best cities in the world to live, but also a place that enriches and expands our minds.*

- **Under an SNP-led administration, we will keep all public libraries open.** We will prioritise promoting our libraries and our council-owned museums and galleries, rejuvenating them and ensuring that more people in our city are aware of how much they have to offer.
- We will continue to support funding for the **development of artists and creatives** from BAME and other underrepresented backgrounds.
- **We will deliver a new model for Edinburgh's Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations,** in line with the 8,000 residents who gave their views in the recent consultation supporting the continuation of the events, but with significant changes and a move away from using valuable green space and prioritising local businesses wherever possible.
- **We will work with our world-famous summer festivals** to ensure that they emerge from the pandemic more sustainable and as vibrant as ever, while supporting and enabling the Fringe and other festivals out from the Old Town, spreading cultural benefits to more communities.
- Edinburgh has diverse and dynamic communities in all corners, not just in the city centre. **We will promote and support community-led festivals and cultural events** throughout the city by ringfencing funding and support for grassroots events.
- **Edinburgh's many impressive statues** in our public places need to be seen in their full historical context. We established the **Legacy of Colonialism Review Group** and we fully accept its recommendations on how to tell Edinburgh's rich and complex history.

*continued on next page.*

# The Capital of Culture

- We welcome the grassroots campaign for a **statue** to honour trailblazing female doctor **Elsie Inglis** and will support it to make this happen.
- In defiance of the hard Tory Brexit forced upon us, we will maintain Edinburgh at the heart of the **Eurocities network** across the continent and will always support the rights of our **62,000 EU and EEA nationals** who have chosen to make their lives here – our friends, neighbours, family members and colleagues.
- **Edinburgh is an LGBTQ+-proud city**, and we will always stand up for inclusion and equalities in our Council. At the heart of our LGBTQ+ cultural identity, is our 'pink triangle' between the top of Broughton Street and the top of Leith Walk. We'll work with local businesses to deliver public art and on-street painting in the triangle, to identify this area as the heart of LGBTQ+ Edinburgh and as a symbol of our pride in all our residents.
- **We will engage with the creative and hospitality sectors** to identify gaps in the types and sizes of venues our city currently has to offer, including assessing demand for a new 10,000 capacity venue so that Edinburgh residents will be able to see their favourite bands and shows in their own city.
- **Working with community groups**, we will facilitate a plan, by local people and for local people, for the **Ross Bandstand** in Princes Street Gardens, publicly owned and operated for public good.

# The Capital of Culture

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# Prioritising Our Communities, Prioritising Equalities

*Through Covid, our communities were Edinburgh's greatest resource, keeping people safe and services running thanks to the strength of partnerships and the generosity of our residents with their time in volunteering and helping their neighbours. We're committed to empowering our communities and working together with our partners to be far greater than the sum of our parts and deliver outcomes previously impossible with a holistic 'Team Edinburgh' approach.*

- To tackle the root causes of antisocial behaviour, **we will complete the rollout of Stronger Edinburgh**, a joint approach between the local community, the police, the Council and other agencies first piloted in the North of the city which has been highly successful.

- **We will also establish an Antisocial Behaviour Task Force** to identify additional actions and approaches to tackling the scourge that affects too many of our communities, drawing on the experiences of cities across the world. These will maintain participation from the police and other partners and will be tailored to the specific neighbourhoods where they are to be implemented.
- **We will lead the delivery of local community plans**, a plan which all city partners: Police and NHS, businesses and charities are all committed to ensuring that residents have a good place to live, enough money to live on and access to work, training or education.
- When we have the legal power to do so, **we will set up exclusion zones around healthcare facilities providing abortion services**. We will work with the Scottish Government, NHS and others to have the legislation changed so that no one has to experience fear or intimidation when accessing healthcare services.

# Prioritising Our Communities, Prioritising Equalities

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- **We will further increase funding for rape crisis and domestic abuse** services and organisations tackling violence against women and girls. We will also roll out training in identifying signs of abuse for all frontline council staff.
- **We will establish new allotments** to help meet the enormous demand among residents. We will also increase provision of community growing spaces meeting our aims as a signatory of the 2021 Climate Agreement, so that everyone has access to a place where they can grow their own fresh, cheap, healthy food.
- To boost community empowerment aims, **we will promote the transfer of land and buildings to local groups** and improve responsiveness among Council staff when considering how to dispose of property.
- **Community councils are crucial to grassroots democracy in our city.** We commit to a guarantee on early engagement, with changes to public consultation timelines to ensure that affected community councils always have the opportunity to take part. We also recognise the toll that Covid has taken on community councils so we will target support, including staff time, advertising and community councillor recruitment efforts, to those which have become dormant because of the challenges of the pandemic.
- **We will support communities in running local community voting** to award grants so that decisions on which organisations and projects benefit are taken at a grassroots level.
- **We will engage with our local providers and schools** to support and improve our **Active Schools programme**, making sure free school clubs and sports activities are more widely available, recognising the value this has for single parent families in particular.

# Ensuring Everyone in Edinburgh has Access to the Care and Support They Need

***Achieving the very best care provision requires proper engagement with service users. We will learn from what works best in other places, as well as coming up with innovative approaches to deliver the best outcomes for our residents as they get older or develop care needs. As the SNP Scottish Government progresses a National Care Service, we're working to shift the balance towards these services being run by the public sector for the public good. We will always use our voice in local government to push for greater pay for this essential work.***

# Ensuring Everyone in Edinburgh has Access to the Care and Support They Need

**SNP** 

- We will work with the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board to **establish a social care service users' forum** so that the views of those receiving care are always at the heart of shaping services.
- We will work with the Scottish Government to make sure that the **new National Care Service** is shaped to meet the needs of our residents and deliver the very best care possible, replacing privately run for-profit services with publicly owned services running for the public good and ensuring that provision in Edinburgh promotes good health while addressing poor health.
- **We will increase publicly-owned provision of care homes**, including new council owned facilities.
- **We will deliver the recommendations of the Council's review of adaptations**, supporting more disabled tenants and owners to remain in their own homes. We will make it easier and faster for older and disabled homeowners to move to more suitable housing should they wish to do so.
- **We will reduce the average wait for a care package** and make sure, through the "3 conversations model", that everyone who needs support can access it as quickly as possible.
- **We will work with NHS Lothian** to ensure that **care package assessments are faster**, reducing delayed discharges by ensuring that care is available in the community upon leaving hospital.
- **The pandemic and the restrictions required to combat it** have caused profound impacts on mental health. We will work with the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board to increase funding for mental health services by ringfencing Council funding uplifts, reducing the wait to provision these vital services, and exploring greater access of community models to ensure people in need get access to some support as quickly as possible.
- The last two years have been particularly difficult for the mental health of children and young people. **We will invest in funding and recruiting more school counsellors** to help address wait times for CAMHS referrals. We will consult with schools on holistic mental health and wellbeing provision, in recognition of the impact of the pandemic and the increasing demand for counselling services.
- **We will address the pressures on our social care workforce** caused by the hard Brexit Edinburgh didn't vote for and the Tory cost of living crisis by funding enhanced pay and conditions to incentivise those already working in social care to keep doing so and promote an improved focus on apprenticeships and career progression to encourage more people to choose it as a career.

# Promoting Our City's Health through Access to Sport and Parks

*Edinburgh is the greenest city in the UK and with the new Meadowbank we have some of the best sporting facilities in the country. This is crucial for all of our residents' wellbeing and we're committed to going further and investing to make sure we can all get the most out of our community indoor and outdoor spaces.*

- **We will increase participation in sport and physical activity** through increased public access to facilities, including those which are within schools. We will consult with local people and organisations on what their priorities for sport and leisure are and how best to make these happen.
- **We will make funding available to support Edinburgh Leisure facilities** to make sure all of our communities have access to publicly-owned sport and activity facilities.
- **We will deliver at least 35 new and refurbished play parks** over the five year council term and we will ensure that every site across the city has accessible play equipment for disabled children.
- **We will increase our canopy coverage** by planting a further 150,000 trees during the next term, putting us well on our way to becoming a One Million Tree City, hand in hand with our target of achieving net zero emissions by 2030. In part we will achieve this by planting trees within school playgrounds as part of plans to 'green' more spaces in school grounds.
- **We will establish a new premier park in Granton** of the standard of The Meadows and Inverleith to further cement Edinburgh's status as the greenest major city in the UK.
- **35 of Edinburgh's parks** have already been awarded the prestigious **Green Flag status**, awarded by Keep Scotland Beautiful in recognition of cleanliness and good facilities, such as play equipment. We will further increase that number and upgrade as many existing parks as possible so that they are fully accessible.
- **Through a combination of permanent and pop-up measures**, we will create a fund and work with landowners to deliver **new urban green spaces** in inner city areas that need more green open space.
- **Few cities are blessed with such a dramatic and rugged landscape** from the outskirts to the city centre. We will work with partners so that the Pentlands Hills and Arthur's Seat have programmes funded for **improvement of footpaths**, improving accessibility and protecting from erosion.

# Promoting Our City's Health through Access to Sport and Parks

**SNP** 



# Protecting and Enhancing Edinburgh's Beautiful Environment



*We can make Edinburgh greener and cleaner. The work we've done already has put the city in a strong position but we need to make further progress. Our plans will deliver the funding and approaches needed not only to make our city look even more beautiful but also deliver a net-zero sustainable future for the next generation.*

- **Climate change is the single greatest challenge facing humanity.** A vote for the SNP at this election is a vote for transformative change to **achieve net zero emissions by 2030** and to ensure that our city is a global leader in tackling the climate crisis.

- **We will develop a citywide heat and energy masterplan**, supported by a pipeline of infrastructure proposals as part of Edinburgh's Green Investment Plan. Working with Council-owned Energy for Edinburgh, we will develop proposals for community energy generation schemes that deliver clean energy and help build community wealth.
- **We will deliver the agreed Low Emission Zone** to improve air quality, key to reducing childhood asthma and respiratory problems.
- **We will make Edinburgh look its best**, with a year-on-year increase in funding for **street cleaning and waste collections**, worth an extra £10m over the next Council term. We will improve action on graffiti, in part by designating new spaces for street art and murals.

# Protecting and Enhancing Edinburgh's Beautiful Environment

SNP



- **We will work with businesses to reduce unnecessary packaging** and improve sustainability. We will investigate a local levy on wasteful packaging for home delivered items.
- **Climate change is already having an impact on Edinburgh.** We will work with Scottish Water and other partners to align investment plans as part of the Council's Climate Adaptation Plan to deal with the impact of extreme weather, **upgrading gullies and other drainage infrastructure** needed to combat flooding risk.
- **As the greenest major city in the UK,** Edinburgh is blessed with an abundance of wildlife and plant species. **We will improve biodiversity by increasing key habitats,** expanding wild-flower sites and delivering more 'Wee Forests' – tennis court-sized sites, densely packed with trees (prioritising areas which currently lack woodland) in line with the Edinburgh Declaration.
- **We will continue to make progress in reducing dog fouling,** investing in wardens to ramp up fines for those responsible.
- **We will continue to increase recycling levels across the city,** including food waste and glass, through continued education campaigns, improved recycling service provision and, where necessary, enforcement for businesses illegally using on-street bins. We will also ensure that businesses or individuals dumping waste on public land face appropriate penalties and we will collaborate with key partners to identify system-wide actions to tackle the blight of litter and fly-tipping on our communities. We will promote and roll out, on a city-wide basis, support for groups of residents who want, with the agreement of their neighbours, to keep their streets free of weeds without the use of pesticides.

# Getting Edinburgh Moving in a Greener and Healthier Way

***Our vision is of a transport system that works for everyone. We will deliver on the promises held within the approved City Mobility Plan to create a city where people and goods can move around in healthier, more sustainable ways. A city where pedestrians and disabled people are at the very top of how we prioritise designs. A city where cycling is a normal part of daily life and the typical person feels is a safe, convenient means of transport. A city where public transport is something we all use, with our brilliant bus company, Lothian Buses, and expanding tram network. If our growing capital is to avoid a future clogged with congestion, this is the vision that must become a reality and these are the policies to get us there.***



# Getting Edinburgh Moving in a Greener and Healthier Way

SNP

- Over the course of the next council term, **we will invest a further £120m repairing and maintaining roads and pavements.** This will improve our road condition overall and raise our ranking against other councils.
- **The tram from the airport to York Place has been hugely popular** for the communities it serves and we are on track to deliver the extension to Newhaven on-budget and on-time. We will progress plans to **extend the tram network northward to Granton and to the Royal Infirmary in the south,** helping create a world-class rapid mass transit system for our city which can complement our outstanding bus services.
- When legislation is passed, **we will implement a Workplace Parking Levy** to reduce the number of commutes made by private car, tackling emissions and congestion in the city. This will be a charge on employers, not employees, with exemptions for smaller companies and key frontline public services like the NHS to encourage big business to help us deliver the changes our city needs. Revenue raised from this will be invested in supporting public transport and other sustainable transport choices.
- **The transition to electric vehicles will play a key part in our push towards net-zero by 2030.** We will decarbonise the Council's fleet replacing all petrol and diesel with electric and hydrogen vehicles and work with Lothian Buses towards the same end for their fleet. We will deliver a ten-fold increase in on-street charging points and ramp up publicly accessible EV charging points through planning conditions and changes.
- **An SNP-led administration will keep Lothian Buses in public ownership.** We will also work towards a reduction in the average journey time on Lothian Buses services by 5 minutes, with increased bus priority, better placement of bus stops and other measures as well as undertaking a review of routes to reduce the need for services to travel along Princes Street, ensuring that routes are aligned with passengers' travel needs.
- We will work with businesses to **ensure that 'last mile delivery' is achieved through sustainable methods** such as cargo-bikes and smaller, electric vans. We will continue to work alongside the SNP Scottish Government bring together freight companies of every size to find more sustainable ways of moving goods around our city, helping to alleviate congestion.
- **We will identify a provider for a new bike hire scheme,** ensuring wider access. We will also work towards expanding bike ownership for those who need help and ensure greater rollout of bikes spaces and storage.
- **The Council's partnership with Living Streets** has not only been successful in removing street clutter, but in capturing actions to make the city more accessible and walking-friendly. We will provide additional resources to this work in the next term to allow actions to be taken forward as quickly as possible.

*continued on next page.*

# Getting Edinburgh Moving in a Greener and Healthier Way

- To help pedestrians further, **we will deliver new signalised crossings** and add at least 2 seconds of 'green man' time to every crossing in the city, adding longer in some busy locations, to give everyone adequate time to cross.
- We recognise that many older and disabled people rely on their cars so **we will set up a new Accessibility Commission** to examine how our whole transport system (including public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling options) can better meet the needs of and empower older and disabled residents.
- **We will implement the City Centre Transformation strategy**, making key city centre locations largely car-free and with priority for those walking and wheeling, while preserving access for those with restricted mobility and retaining access for hopper buses and taxis.
- **We recognise the need for safe, separated space where cyclists** of every age and ability are not exposed to danger from vehicles. So we will deliver a further **£118m in active travel projects** in the next 5 years creating a network of cycle routes, particularly on arterial routes, that provide physical separation from other traffic for their whole length, including junctions. This investment will also provide significantly improved infrastructure for pedestrians.
- **We will build permanent, high-quality, separated infrastructure** that closes key gaps in the existing network of off-road paths. As part of that, we will also work with landowners such as Network Rail to unlock lines like Piershill to Powderhall as new off-road cycle routes, linking safe paths that already exist in the city.
- **We will review all temporary Covid-related infrastructure** as quickly as possible and remove temporary road furniture thereafter – following the approach of new schemes set out above during the next term.
- **We will continue to support our taxi and private hire drivers** to make the transition to electric vehicles. We will work with taxi operators by providing enhanced EV infrastructure and we will support drivers with incentives through licensing.
- **Congestion is a major problem for our city** and much of it results from commuter journeys originating outwith Edinburgh – from the rest of the Lothians, Fife and beyond. **We will introduce a commuter charging zone at the city boundary** to discourage those living outwith the city from driving in, encouraging them to switch to bus, tram, train, foot or cycle. No Edinburgh resident – including those living in South Queensferry and the western villages – will ever have to pay the charge. We will use the revenue raised to fund sustainable transport projects, such as new park and ride schemes, sharing investment across the Lothians.

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