

# SNP X



## Stronger for Scotland Delivering for Midlothian

**SNP X**

**SCOTTISH LOCAL ELECTIONS  
THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2022**



# Foreword from SNP Group Leader, Colin Cassidy

There's no doubt the last few years have taken its toll on all of us. As we move forward we need a new positive vision for Midlothian.

Midlothian has many opportunities for improving our economy and making Midlothian the best place to live, but we have been let down in the last five years by poor political leadership from the Labour administration.

That's why we have been asking for your opinions through our extensive survey completed right across Midlothian.

The people who live here are best placed to know what needs to change and what works. Thank you to everyone who took the time to take part and to contribute over one thousand opinions, issues and suggestions. You'll see some of the quotes and suggestions in this manifesto.

This is a manifesto written by the people of Midlothian for the people of Midlothian.

Colin Cassidy 



# Your local SNP



# Candidates



**Karen Green**



**Colin Cassidy**



**Ann Montague**



**Stuart McKenzie**

**Dalkeith**

**Midlothian East**



**Kelly Parry**



**Pat Kenny**



**Dianne Alexander**

**Midlothian West**

**Bonnyrigg**



**Ellen Scott**



**Douglas Bowen**



**Connor McManus**



**Debbi McCall**

**Midlothian South**

**Penicuik**

## Schools and early education in the right place – locally



Our ambition is for Scotland to be the best place to grow up where children are loved, safe and respected so that they can reach their full potential.

We will build a wraparound childcare system, providing care before and after school, all year round, where those on the lowest incomes will pay nothing, and others will make fair and affordable contributions.

Your SNP Council will work with the Scottish Government to also expand free early years education to all 1 and 2 year olds, starting with children from low income households.

**"We really struggled to find childcare that was flexible enough to fit with work demands."**

**"Having access to free childcare would be a life changer for me and my family"**

## Delivering on Housing



Utilising Scottish Government funding we will take even more action to deliver affordable housing for local people.

Your SNP Council will bring an urgent review of the Housing Allocations Policy, to ensure that housing is allocated fairly, and to those most in need.

Your SNP Council will review the Housing Repairs Programme to address the ignored issues of inadequate housing, including mould and damp.

**"Our house has had an outstanding roof repair for over a year, nothing seems to get done about it."**

**"I have damp in my house and its affecting the health of me and my children, its too cold to open the windows and the cost of heating is un-affordable"**

## Improving Midlothian's Play Parks



We know that play is an absolutely crucial part of children's health and well-being and as we continue to recover from the pandemic, playing outside will allow children to reconnect with each other and allow them to return to enjoying their childhood.

Your SNP Council will work with our Scottish Government partners to renew every play park in Midlothian, so that all children have access to high quality outdoor play in their own community, backed by £60 million of national funding.

**"We love spending time in Midlothian's green spaces but our playparks aren't as good as other areas."**

**"Children have had such a tough time over the last few years, especially the wee ones. We need better places to play that are accessible for all children."**

## Open and transparent decision making.



In our surveys you told us that communication with Midlothian Council was poor and consultations seemed to be a rubber stamp job.

Your SNP Council will review all the communication processes ensuring that phones are answered, emails replied to and that all consultations are open and transparent.

**"I feel so detached from decisions made by Midlothian Council. They don't seem to be open and honest with planning and outcomes of decision making".**

**"There needs to be more meaningful consultations before decisions are made not after".**

## Better transport links



Public transport has taken a big hit through reduced usage. The Scottish Government has provided considerable funding to keep it going.

Improvements to the Sheriffhall junction will speed up traffic, buses and make the route safer for cyclists. We will review our public transport strategies to reflect our growing population and Midlothian's rural areas. In addition we welcome the Scottish Government providing free bus passes to all under 22 – this will bring more passengers onto buses and help sustain routes.

**"We really appreciate having free bus travel and now our grandchildren are benefitting from it. So pleased they can save money attending activities and visiting us!"**

**"The Council need to do more for rural Midlothian villages."**

## Clean and green environment



Midlothian is a great place to live, and we want everyone to enjoy our environment. Community groups do a great job enhancing their local area but the council has a big role to play ensuring it supports those initiatives whilst attending to its statutory duties.

Your SNP Council will review the way we tackle road and pavement maintenance and ensuring that utility companies leave roads repaired properly after their work. There will be a zero tolerance approach to fly tipping, dog fouling and littering.

**"What is being done about the Potholes in and around our area— this is the worst".**

**"Why aren't potholes repaired properly instead of patches that don't last".**

## **The SNP investing in Midlothian's economy**

- In 2021-22, Midlothian received £183 million in revenue funding. In 2022-23 Midlothian will receive £199 million in revenue funding, an increase of 8.7%.
- According to the latest coverage statistics from Thinkbroadband, 95.6% of properties in Midlothian are now connected to superfast broadband – a 55.6% rise from 2014 when only 44% of properties were connected to internet speeds of at least 30Mbps.
- Since its introduction in 2011, there are 33 living wage accredited employers in the Midlothian Council area.
- As at 1 July 2021, the number of properties receiving 100% business rates relief in Midlothian was 1,280, with a value of £10.1 million.

## **The SNP delivering for Midlothian families**

- In 2021-22, Midlothian council received £2,209,916 to be spent at the discretion of teachers and school leaders to close the attainment gap, benefitting 32 primary schools and 6 secondary schools.
- 4,095 families in Midlothian received Best Start Grant and Best Start Food payments, worth a total of £1,431,352.
- 2,646 pupils in P1-3 and 484 further children and young people are now benefitting from a free school meal in Midlothian, saving families around £380 per child per year.
- This SNP Government funds at least 1,140 hours of funded childcare for all eligible three and four-year-olds, saving Midlothian families around £4,900 per child per year. In 2022-23, Midlothian council will receive £11.4 million in revenue funding to support this expand further.
- Across the country, over 207,000 Baby Boxes have been delivered since the start of the scheme in August 2017. This includes 36,543 in NHS Lothian between 2017 and 2022.

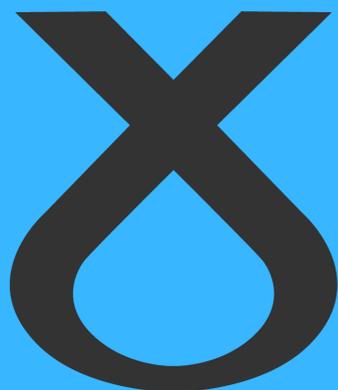
## **Mitigating Tory policies for Midlothian**

- It costs Midlothian £10.1 million to mitigate vindictive Tory policies, including the bedroom tax. This works out at a cost of £236.88 per household.
- The Scottish Welfare Fund has paid out £3,904,506 to support households across Midlothian since 2013.
- 2,255 children across Midlothian are benefitting from the SNP Scottish Government's 'game-changing' Scottish Child Payment.
- In December 2021, 1,440 unpaid carers in Midlothian benefited from the Carer's Allowance Supplement. Eligible carers in Scotland received up to £694.20 more in support last year than carers in the rest of the UK.

**On May 5th**

**Vote SNP**

**1 and 2**



**SNP** 

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