



A green future for our great city

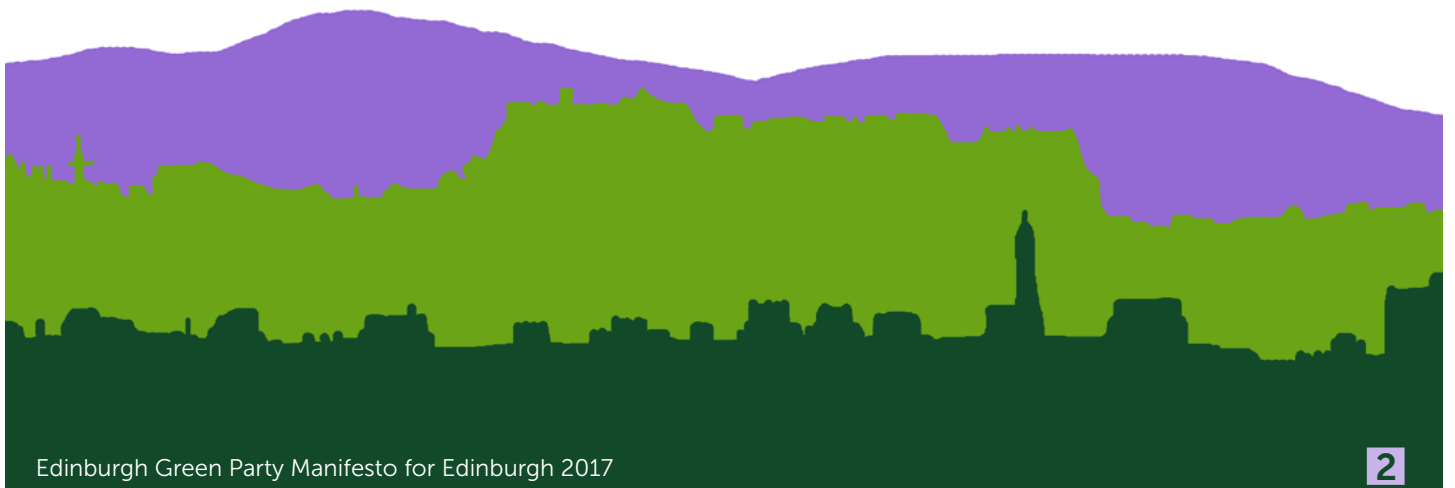


Edinburgh Green Party

MANIFESTO for Edinburgh 2017

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A green future for our great city

In 2012 the people of Edinburgh elected six Green councillors to the City Council. Our councillors have worked tirelessly since then, listening to what people want, giving them a voice in decisions and standing up to powerful interests.

Green councillors in Edinburgh have helped residents in Slateford fight demolition of housing, battled to secure public rights across green space at the Astley Ainslie hospital, and ensured people in Leith and other areas have a say over how budgets are decided. We have a proud record of getting things done that includes fighting against cuts to public services, championing local businesses, and making sure the city is a welcoming place for all.

With more Green councillors we can do so much more to give our great city the green future it needs.

More Green councillors mean action on priorities like...

- **Helping people have warm, safe homes by reducing rents and bringing empty homes back into use;**
- **Valuing the workers who care for our children and loved ones, with a "Living Wage Plus" of at least £9.20 an hour; and**
- **Making our city healthier, safer and easier to get around by significantly expanding public transport.**

It means...

- An end to the council allowing development in the green belt around the city;
- Giving people more direct say over how the council spends your money by aiming for £20 million of the council budget to be decided by participatory budgeting by the end of the council term;

- An increase in frontline staff and support to voluntary groups working to keep our streets, parks and open spaces clean and safe;
- A campaigning council which challenges national governments on budget cuts and pushes for new powers to invest in local services;
- A real commitment to putting pedestrians and cyclists at the heart of the way places are designed and managed and to joining up travel routes across the city;
- Working with the pension fund to invest in socially useful activity like homes for people rather than weapons and fossil fuels;
- Making Edinburgh city centre as people-friendly as the best city centres in Europe.

With your help, we can together give our great city of Edinburgh a green future for everyone who lives here, works here and visits us.

Communities matter

Green councillors want to see a city where public space is genuinely public: open and welcoming for all. A city where communities own more land and buildings and where areas are managed by different people all working together. We want green space to be protected and improved in every community: for people and for wildlife.

We also recognise that stronger communities still need the council to get basic services right. We back more money for well-managed services which improve day to day life: streets free of litter and dog-fouling; bin collections which are on time; and well-maintained pavements, cycle-paths and roads.

More Green councillors will

- Encourage and support community groups to take ownership of land or buildings by giving advice, giving funding to test ideas, and sharing knowledge;
- Review our open and public spaces and our common good land, and develop a plan to ensure they are being used;
- Help people to temporarily use land which is lying unused and push for more concerted action to get land back into use;
- Develop a range of ways of supporting communities to organise projects for themselves: through libraries and community centres, use of social media and opportunities for local volunteering;
- Introduce a city-wide tree-planting programme, delivered jointly with schools and community groups, to build on the legacy of earlier generations;
- Open or refurbish public toilets where they are most needed;

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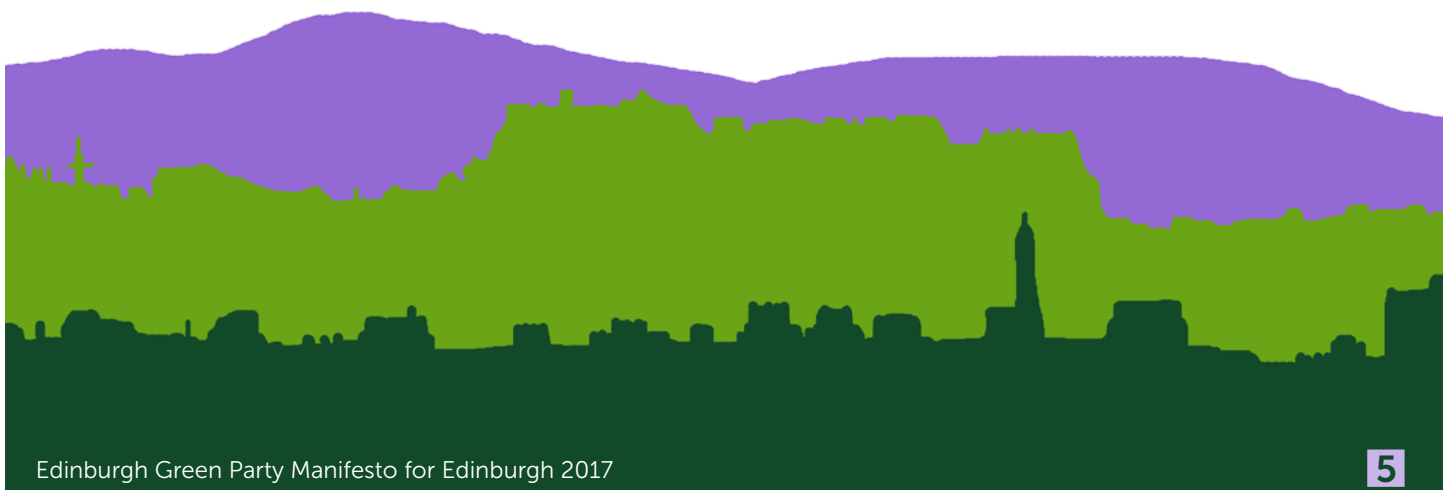
Mary Campbell,
Portobello-Craigmillar
candidate:

“I want to see
more community
ownership of land
and buildings”

- Develop neighbourhood action plans to tackle antisocial behaviour;
- Expand the “Playing Out” project which allows children to enjoy playing on the street by closing some streets to traffic for a few hours;
- Develop a long-term partnership plan with Police Scotland to guarantee the role of visible and familiar community police officers at neighbourhood level;
- Set and consistently apply clear standards for collection of bins and street-cleaning;
- Introduce “smart bins” which give automatic feedback when they are close to being full, give people better information on what to do if bins are full, and set expectations on all council staff to report litter, waste and street cleanliness problems;
- Introduce extra environmental wardens to tackle fly-tipping, business waste, street clutter and dog-fouling, and look at new ways of tracking dogs to the owners who cause a persistent nuisance;
- Support more community-led schemes like “Leithers Don’t Litter” which improve how an area looks and feels, develop litter reward schemes, and take personal lead roles on clean-ups;
- Make sure that bin lorry crews have all the correct information they need to pick up bins on time and regularly; introduce street-cleaning carts in each neighbourhood;
- Make the council a disposable-free packaging council: no paper cups, plastic cutlery, plastic straws or plastic take-away cartons;
- Design and implement schemes which prevent and reduce waste, especially for plastic bottles, plastic bags, cups and packaging;
- Reduce street fly-tipping through free bulk waste pick-up days.

Greens have

- * Secured public access rights at the Astley Ainslie hospital;
- * Backed community buy-outs at Bridgend Farmhouse, Leith Waterworld and Boroughmuir High School;
- * Supported “meantime” use of the brewery sites at Fountainbridge;
- * Argued for more environmental wardens and street-cleaners in our budget;
- * Taken part in dozens of community clean-ups;
- * Published a 10-point plan to improve bin collections.



Planning a green city

As Edinburgh grows, we put people's needs above developers' profits: people of all ages and abilities, but particularly those with physical disabilities, or with conditions such as dementia, who can find the city difficult to navigate.

Places should be planned so that shops, surgeries, schools and sports facilities, to take just some examples, are within easy reach. Where development sites have been allocated, the priority should be high-quality homes at a density which can support excellent public transport and local facilities.

More Green councillors will

- Transform the city centre to put people first, making George Street and the Royal Mile for pedestrians and bikes only and designing a Princes Street which should be the most celebrated main street in Scotland;
- Argue for an end to the council allowing development in the green belt around the city, and for a new focus on food growing, leisure and wildlife, plus new life for the shore, with a continuous and attractive "blue belt" from Cramond to Portobello;
- Ensure that there is more community involvement in planning by campaigning for equal appeal rights in planning decisions, by more use of area "master-planning", by funding independent advice for community groups, and by making sure larger planning decisions are made by way of open "hearings";
- Introduce a "Living Places" project, which brings life back into underused places starting with Festival Square;
- Ensure that new housing developments deliver a new target of 30% affordable housing, that developers are kept to it, and that the housing is and stays truly affordable;

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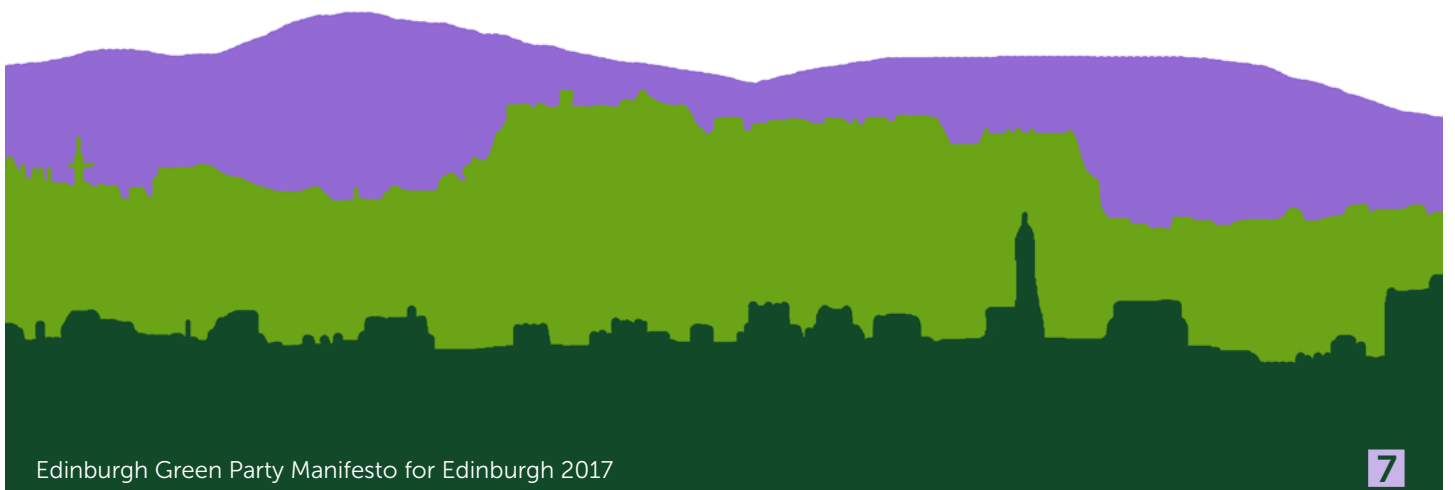
Claire Miller,
City Centre candidate:

"Greens will
transform the
city centre, to
put people first"

- Introduce a “Town Centres project” to promote local high streets with a variety of local shops, and take firm action to deal with empty shop units;
- Ensure that there are green spaces, trees and growing spaces within new developments;
- Create more community gardens and allotments;
- Increase community involvement in the running of parks and green spaces by setting a target for every park to have a “Friends” group;
- Increase the number of schools (both public and private) which have controls in place to reduce the number of vehicles dropping off and picking up children from school;
- Ensure that all planning decisions are recorded in a way such that there is an easily accessible public record of how individual councillors voted.

Greens have

- * Backed successful campaigns by residents at Allan Park to stop over-development of sites;
- * Consistently called for a Local Development Plan which makes better use of existing property and sites;
- * In SW Locality established a community growing and green space network;
- * Supported community involvement in the Fountainbridge masterplan which won masterplan of the year at the Scottish Property Awards;
- * Championed community allotments at Prestonfield.



People-centred transport

Getting planning right will reduce the need to travel, but that still leaves a lot of traffic on our streets which causes traffic jams and pollution and makes streets unsafe. So we want to see a steady but real fall in the number of cars, vans and lorries clogging up the city, making streets more attractive and also easier for essential drivers like disabled people or emergency services to get around.

We can do this if Edinburgh redoubles its efforts to create safe and attractive routes for cyclists and walkers and also has expanded public transport which is safe, affordable, frequent and easy to use.

More Green councillors will

- Work with neighbouring councils to set up a regional transport partnership to co-ordinate travel across the city region; oversee more through-ticketing and travel options; provide better information; and continue to campaign for re-regulation of bus services;
- Review and set a target to significantly increase the current 58% share of people walking, cycling or using public transport to commute;
- Make an absolute commitment to keep Lothian Buses in public hands and seek to use new sources of money to expand routes, bus frequencies, evening and Sunday services, express services, and the number of zero-polluting buses;
- Develop the business case for completing the tram network with options to Newhaven, Granton and the southeast of the city;

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Nigel Bagshaw,
councillor for Inverleith

“More public transport, bikes and walking are better for health, pollution and congestion”

- Introduce a number of days where public transport, cycling and walking are given priority: for example, through working with employers or reward schemes and ticket incentive schemes, both generally and through Young Scot cards;
- Examine the case for opening the south suburban circle railway line as the best means of improving public transport services in the south of the city and opportunities for the areas covered;
- Continue to spend at least 10% of the transport budget on cycling but set a clearer vision about the cycling transformation needed, including dedicated and joined-up routes, segregated cycle-ways, cycle-storage for tenements and on streets, a public bike hire scheme, and high-quality design for pedestrians and cyclists in new building and regeneration schemes;
- Ensure that all road works are assessed so that they improve pedestrian use;
- Commit to and enforce 20mph as the normal speed limit within the city and outlying villages;
- Take firm action on illegal and obstructive parking and review and improve pedestrian priority at busy junctions;
- Give residents priority over other vehicle uses in high-pressure parking areas;
- Tackle air pollution by introducing the first “low-emission zone” in Scotland; put in place more electric vehicle charging points; and work with hauliers and retailers to significantly reduce the number of large freight trucks within busy urban areas;
- Develop an electric vehicle transformation programme, focusing initially on the council’s own fleet, phasing out council diesel vehicles, and also on licensed taxis and delivery/trade vans within the city;
- Tackle the state of roads and pavements by putting in place a Roads Inquiry and Action Plan with three priorities:
 - * **Prevent** (reducing large trucks and pavement mounting);
 - * **Manage** (better co-ordination of utilities’ road works and improving roads team customer service);
 - * **Invest** (push for the Scottish Government to switch money from high-profile “prestige” projects and towards maintenance and repair).

Greens have

- * Backed commitment to fund cycling at 10% of transport budget;
- * Called for years for extensive 20mph limits;
- * Campaigned for dedicated cycle-ways and better cycle storage;
- * Secured better pedestrian priority at temporary traffic lights;
- * Secured a traffic scheme to end rat-running at Greenbank;
- * Led calls for more active use of powers to tackle air pollution.

Housing Edinburgh

We believe in housing justice: homes should be affordable, easy to keep warm and in well-planned areas. It should be much easier to agree repairs and improvements with neighbours. We also want to see much better use of vacant sites and empty homes. We want to make sure that there is a good balance between different uses like long-term homes, student housing and holiday lets. And we want more homes, not more hotels. We believe the council, along with housing co-ops and housing associations, can lead in providing new homes right across the housing market, and we will back new powers to get the land and money needed.

More Green councillors will

- Use new powers to declare all of Edinburgh a rent pressure zone to regulate private rents;
- Work with council tenants' groups to make sure that council rents are kept affordable;
- Develop the council's own not-for-profit "Edinburgh Homes" model to provide housing without subsidy but at rents below those of the private market;
- Appoint dedicated staff to bring empty homes back into use;
- Upgrade and maintain stair lighting in tenement stairs with low-energy, low-maintenance lights;
- Help homeowners to make homes wind and watertight with a trusted not-for-profit service to manage major repairs, including to tenements; explore more ways to help with the cost of repairs – for example, investigating a "tenement contract" for owners to agree matters like maintenance and cleaning; with grants for low-income households, interest-free loans, or options to defer paying repair costs until the property is sold; and work with industry bodies to press for legal reform to make common repairs easier to organise;

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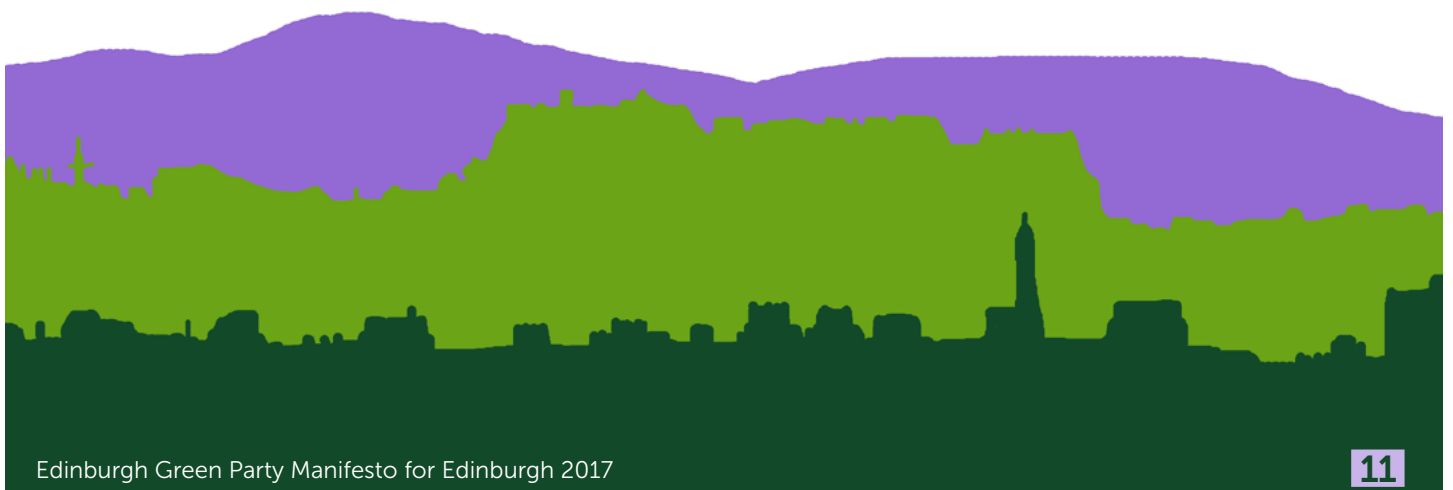
Steve Burgess,
councillor for
Southside-Newington:

"Let's use new
powers to keep
rents under
control"

- Reduce and regulate the loss of homes that are being turned into short-term holiday lets;
- Ensure that new accommodation for students also has a mix of other types of affordable housing;
- Set and enforce a standard for temporary accommodation for homeless people and end the use of bed and breakfast hostels;
- Develop a “co-housing” model which allows residents to plan, design and then organise housing and community facilities together;
- Work with our MSPs to push for policies on taxation and use of land which will reduce inflated land values and force developers to release hoarded land;
- Ensure that the City Region Deal includes new powers and a new programme to bring brownfield sites into use for homes;
- Support the building of at least 16,000 affordable homes in the city through the council and housing associations and co-operatives;
- Use landlord registration income to develop a private landlord outreach and improvement programme.
- Introduce a policy of alternatives to evictions for council tenants, encouraging housing associations to follow suit.
- Oversee a major programme of improvements in energy efficiency and energy use in homes.

Greens have

- * Secured additional money in the council budget for home adaptations for older or disabled people;
- * Introduced a policy of no evictions over the bedroom tax;
- * Exposed the scale of empty homes and lack of council action;
- * Called for a council housing rent freeze in our final budget;
- * Been the only party to back a stair-lighting service in tenements;
- * Backed Shelter’s campaign Make Renting Right.



A jobs and enterprise boost

We want to see the economy of Edinburgh reap the jobs bonanza of a “Green City Region Deal” which will provide thousands of jobs in energy efficiency projects, repair and new manufacturing. We back small local businesses and flourishing social enterprises. We support City of Edinburgh Council paying a Living Wage and want to encourage many more companies to follow that lead.

Green councillors will

- Continue to push for a Green City Region Deal which makes Edinburgh the most attractive place in the UK to work, to study and to invest in, with high-quality public transport, unrivalled public places, and excellent energy-efficient homes;
- Use the City Deal process to boost regional economic planning, focusing on land use, housing sites, energy and skills needs;
- Promote Edinburgh as a Living Wage City and make sure that contractors working with the council pay a Living Wage, linked with commitments on security and conditions of work;
- Boost the city’s social enterprise sector by supporting social enterprise hubs;
- Increase the space within the city available for small businesses, cultural uses and light industry, and make long-term empty offices available for temporary use;
- Develop a programme of buying up long-term vacant shop sites, through compulsory purchase, if necessary, and making them available for small business and social enterprise start-ups;

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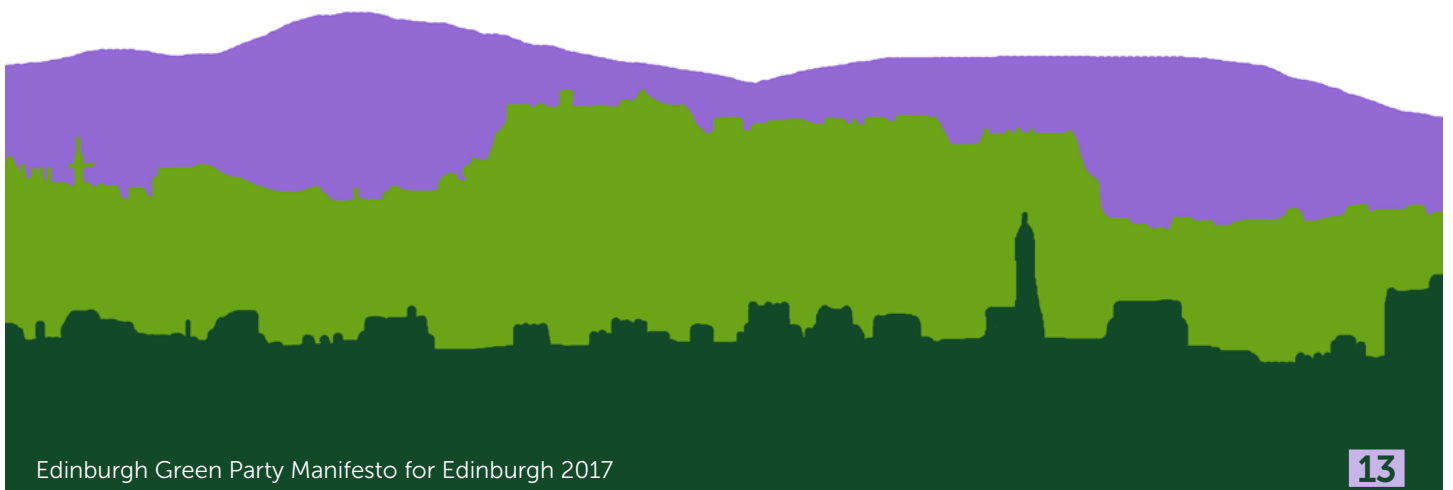
Gavin Corbett, councillor for Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart:

“I’m arguing for a Green City Deal to put Edinburgh ahead of the pack for future jobs”

- Develop Business Gateway to offer advice and model projects for “greening business”, focusing on, for example, waste, energy, travel and purchasing practices;
- Expand the successful Edinburgh Guarantee which offers young people access to training, further education or employment;
- Work with Edinburgh College to develop programmes which give incentives to young people to take up careers in city-critical sectors like the building industry and social care;
- Launch a review into the affordability and availability of the city’s childcare provision looking at employer and family needs, cost, availability, and location;
- Support the development of an “Edinburgh Pound” as a community currency;
- Encourage the Edinburgh-based Green Investment Bank to invest in more city-based projects, and develop Edinburgh as the UK’s leading ethical investment hub;
- Invite proposals to develop Edinburgh as a “Circular Economy City” where materials are built to last and repaired and re-used rather than thrown away.

Greens have

- * Hosted a round table with academics and voluntary organisations on what a “Green City Deal” could be like;
- * Championed the director of social enterprise Remade to be named UK social entrepreneur of the year;
- * Had regular and constructive dialogue with trade unions;
- * Led on setting up “Dig In” as a community-owned shop;
- * Secured council support for the Green Investment Bank to remain in the city.



Education for life

Edinburgh should be a child-friendly city. We believe that all of Edinburgh's children and young people deserve schools that are well-maintained, safe, of the right size and in the right place for decades ahead. We want school staff, parents and pupils to have a greater say in how schools are run, with schools staying within council ownership to make sure there is a level playing field for all schools. And we want to see children who need a bit of extra help get it, so that they can make their way from nursery to school and on into work, college or university.

Green councillors will

- Within one year seek a comprehensive review of school conditions and school roll needs with all the associated costs through to 2030 to allow proper long-term planning for our school buildings;
- Work with our Green MSP colleagues to develop alternatives to private finance models for new and refurbished schools so that the council has a direct role in funding and overseeing work;
- Commit to new schools signalled in the council's forward programme: for secondary schools in west Edinburgh and Craigmillar, for a new special school at St Crispin's, and for a range of primary schools from south Edinburgh to the Waterfront and from St John's at Portobello to west Edinburgh;
- Review and support delivery of school travel plans so that pupils are coming to schools by foot, bike or public transport where possible;
- Support teachers to use best practice in raising attainment and achievement for all children and young people;

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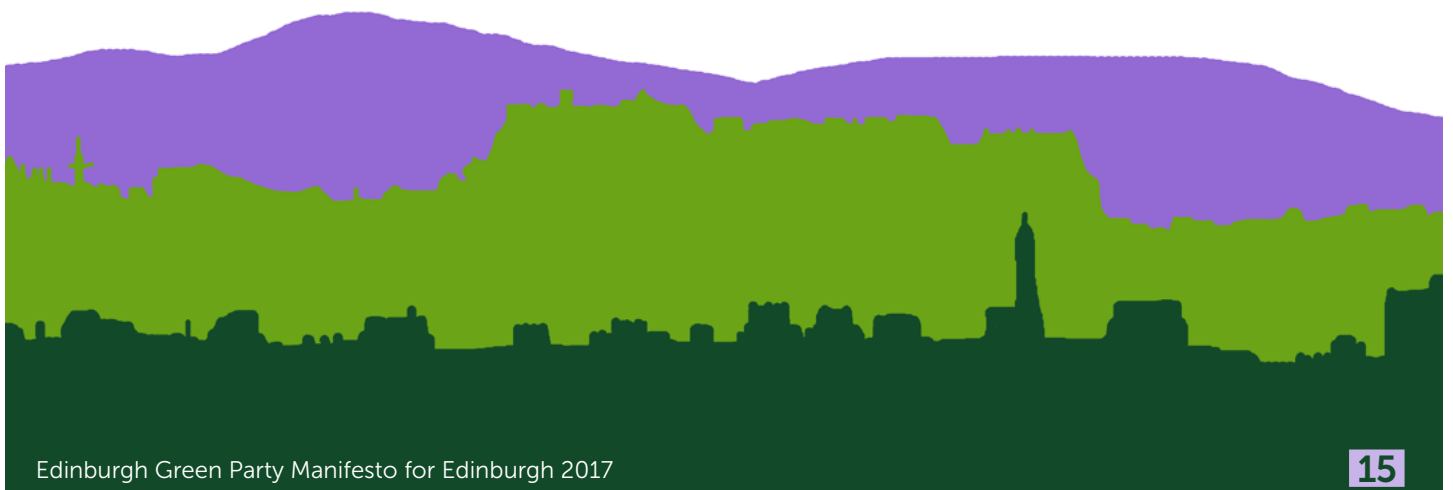
Melanie Main, councillor for Morningside:

“The city needs to plan decades ahead for the right schools in the right places”.

- Make sure children and young people who need additional support are properly assessed and the right support is provided;
- Protect and increase opportunities for outdoor education as part of the core school week and music and arts for all school students;
- Strengthen the role of schools in promoting health for young people and encourage schools to have particular strengths or specialisms which can be shared with other schools in the locality;
- Ensure that there is a greater say for school communities (parents/carers, pupils and staff) in the day to day running of a school, with more support and help for those school communities who need it;
- Double the number of parents on the Education Committee to two; and take a lead from the fact that 16 and 17 year olds can now vote in council elections and allocate at least one place on the Education Committee to a senior school student;
- Make sure every school has a breakfast club, together with assisted home pick-up where families are struggling;
- Improve school-to-home communications by making sure there is ParentMail or equivalent in every school;
- Increase school clothing grants to make them more reflective of actual school clothing costs;
- Support the development of Gaelic Medium Education;
- Support the "Time for Inclusive Education" (TIE) campaign.

Greens have

- * Secured restrictions on commercial companies advertising in schools;
- * Worked with the community in Craigmillar to head off the closure of the area's high school;
- * Consistently called for extra investment in school repairs;
- * Led the response to the PPP schools fiasco and subsequent inquiry;
- * Pushed for parent representation on the Education Committee to be increased.



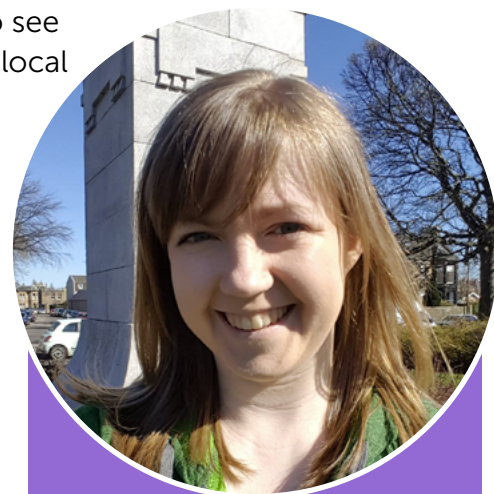
A healthy and caring capital

We want to see a healthy city which reduces the pressure on the NHS. We believe this can be done by making social care work better: providing decent pay and conditions for care workers; boosting local and voluntary organisations to provide care; and helping people to take more control of their own care. We also want to see a transformation in the local food economy and helping people make healthier choices. We believe access to green space and attractive walking and cycling routes will improve both physical and mental health. We want to see NHS, council and community services work together to provide local health centres where lots of different help is under one roof.

Green councillors will

- Encourage a new Caring for Edinburgh Coalition made up of local housing associations and voluntary organisations to take on care contracts on a not-for-profit basis;
- Recognise the crisis in care staff recruitment by paying an enhanced Living Wage Plus of least £9.20 an hour as part of a package of improvements including training, career development and on-job technology to maximise time with clients; promote care as a career choice for more people;
- Develop an independent support and advice service to help people make best use of self-directed care and support; involve service users in service design;
- Ensure that income assessment for care charges doesn't include Carer's Allowance, while working to remove core care charges entirely;

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Gillian Mackay,
Forth candidate

“A Living Wage Plus for care workers will tackle the crisis of care shortages”

- Help family members and friends who provide care to self-identify as “carers” and access the support they are entitled to receive;
- Improve palliative care options for both home-based and hospice care;
- Support multi-service “healthy living hubs” but make sure that community-based services are maintained by linking in outreach services via libraries, community centres, GP surgeries or community pharmacies;
- Work with NHS Lothian to respond to critical shortages in GP services by developing council-hosted services through buildings or even by directly managing them;
- Transform healthy eating choices with a new “Edible Edinburgh” project: promoting a new permanent covered traders’ market for the city centre, local farmers’ markets, free fruit in schools and nurseries, Food for Life Gold Standard in all school meals, growing projects in every school, and more community growing and allotment sites coupled with a “food belt” on the edge of the city;
- Recognise the vital work that foodbanks do here and now but commit to them no longer being needed and meantime support them to help service users have more control over the food choices they make;
- Introduce a programme of working with health visitors and community midwives on a Healthier, Wealthier Capital to make sure low-income families get all the help they need;
- Bring air quality within legal limits and phase out the use of harmful chemicals like the weedkiller glyphosate from public places;
- Make it easier and more attractive for people to choose walking and cycling;
- Make sure the council heeds the advice of NHS Lothian and the police over the alcohol licences which are made available;
- Ensure that drug and alcohol support services are well-linked into local GP surgeries and community organisations.

Greens have

- * Secured budget commitments on advice services;
- * Won council backing for a review of alternatives to glyphosate spraying in public spaces;
- * Led on proposals for a Living Wage Plus for care staff;
- * Exposed the scandal of horsemeat in school meals;
- * Consistently pressed for council-provided food to meet higher “Food for Life” standards;
- * Been consistent critics of the over-supply of alcohol by big supermarket chains;
- * Put forward a “Beyond Foodbanks” proposal which built on the foodbanks to offer cooking, growing and healthy eating support.

Sport and culture for all

We want to build on Edinburgh's reputation as a cultural capital by making culture and leisure opportunities more welcoming for everyone in the city. We want to see local facilities like libraries, sports halls and swimming pools protected and improved, working with local people to do so.

Green councillors will

- Open up more venues and buildings for community and creative use and help with finding performing space throughout the city;
- Make it easier for community groups and sports clubs to book school facilities and community centres;
- Review council funding to arts and cultural organisations with a view to better supporting grassroots groups;
- Invite Edinburgh Leisure to introduce a programme of access to swimming pools and sports facilities in areas where disadvantaged people are not currently using such facilities;
- Promote schemes like the Young Scot card to open up facilities for young people;
- Better regulate commercial use of landmark spaces like the Meadows, Inverleith Park and Princes Street Gardens;
- Recognise that community learning and development and youth work services have experienced significant cuts and protect those budgets from further cuts;

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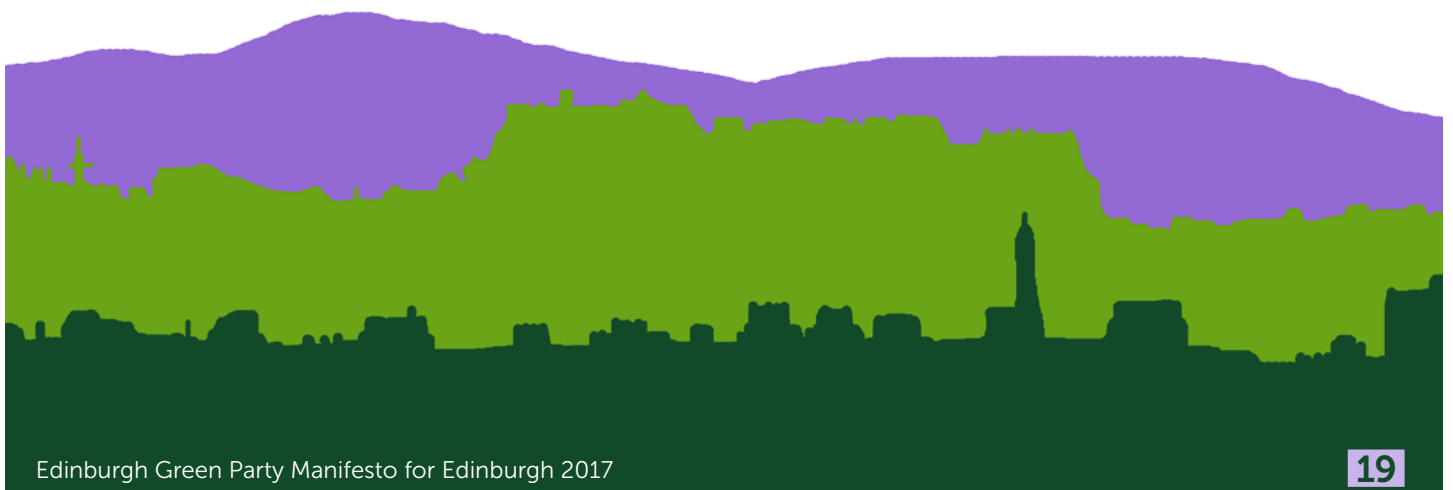
Alex Staniforth,
Craigentiny-Duddingston
candidate:

“Our test as a
cultural capital
should be making
it open to all”

- Press the Scottish Government to give Edinburgh the power to introduce a tourist levy to invest in cultural services and in the city centre;
- Develop Edinburgh as a whole festival city, making sure that all areas feel the benefit of the festivals; and make it easier for school-aged children and young people to access the main festivals;
- Assign a senior post to co-ordinate the city's night-time economy;
- Improve the green footprint of the festivals, focusing on travel, waste and responsible use of public space;
- Strengthen and implement the council's draft Gaelic Language Plan, including expanded online presence, and increase support for Gaelic arts.

Greens have

- * Been the only party to stand firm against the closure and sale of Leith Waterworld;
- * Sought to reverse library cuts in successive budgets;
- * Proposed budget amendments to protect Edinburgh Leisure services and to open them up to under-represented groups;
- * Backed plans to revamp Meadowbank stadium;
- * Supported the Skelf off-road bike park in the Southside.



Edinburgh belongs to you

We believe that the council needs to be more open to the ideas and views of its citizens. We want people to be more involved in big decisions like planning and council spending. We want to see voluntary and community bodies own assets such as community buildings, and decide on what happens in their areas. And we want to give people who use services more say over how those services are designed and delivered.

Green councillors will

- Give more support and say to community councils and introduce a pilot programme of devolving funding to them for projects which would improve their local area;
- Giving people more direct say over how the council spends your money by aiming for £20 million of the council budget to be decided by participatory budgeting by the end of the council term;
- Recognise the vital role of the city's voluntary sector by:
 - * Ensuring decisions about award of Council contracts consider the value of locally-based organisations;
 - * Putting service users at the centre of service commissioning;
 - * Committing to core funding of the local voluntary sector for at least three-year periods in order to allow stability and planning;
- Make the link between the council's legal functions – such as planning and licensing – easier to understand, simpler to navigate and easier to take part in;

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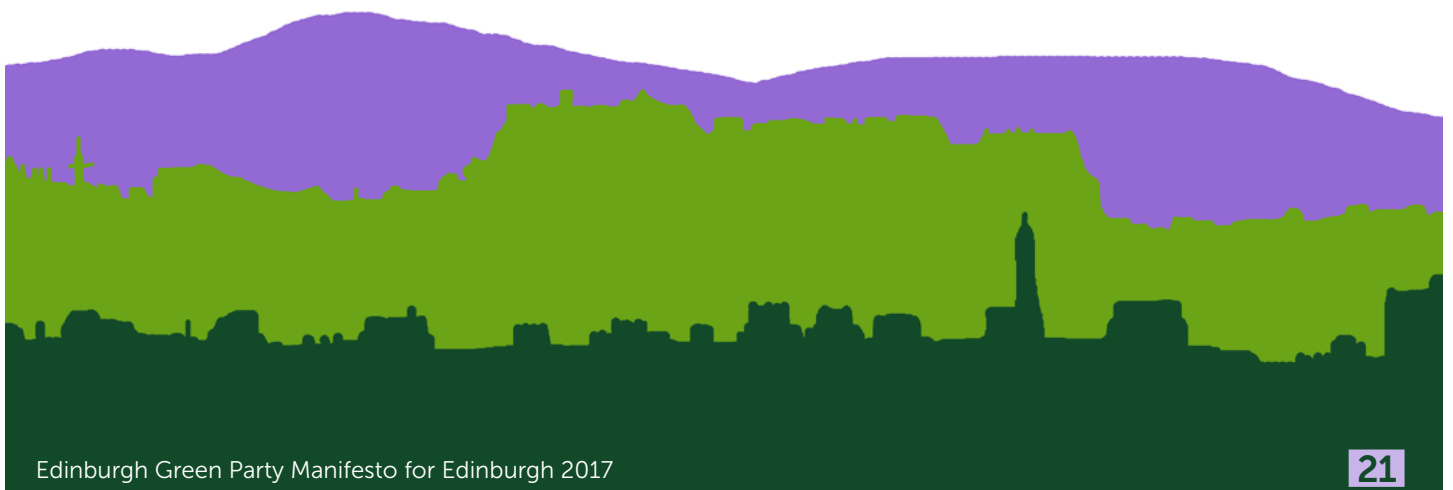
Dan Heap, Sighthill-Gorgie candidate:

“I want to see far more budget choices put directly in the hands of people affected by them”

- Ensure rigorous oversight of council arm's-length companies (ALEOs); and include an employee representative on their boards;
- Promote more direct community representation: for example, a council tenant on the Housing Committee, or a local resident on Business Improvement Districts;
- Introduce a new policy when future use of council land or buildings is being considered: with potential community or social use at the top, long-term leasing or joint ownerships looked at as an alternative to sale; and sale on the open market only as a final option or where there is an identified use for the highest capital receipt;
- Promote community asset transfer where communities get direct control over land or buildings;
- Adopt a "wellbeing index" for the city which captures changes in quality of life in the city and is reported regularly to the council;
- Make council processes easier to understand and accountable, by, for example, expanding the use of webcasting of council meetings, and developing the petitions committee.

Greens have

- * Chaired the Petitions committee since 2012;
- * Successfully proposed webcasting of council meetings;
- * Championed the extension of participatory budgeting in different parts of the city;
- * Sought to ensure that local organisations were not edged out when decisions over contracts were being made: for example, services to deaf people.



A fairer Edinburgh

We are passionate about a more equal Edinburgh, where the city's wealth is shared more fairly, and where minority groups of all kinds are included. We will always stand firm against all forms of discrimination and want our council and other public bodies to become representative of the different communities they serve.

We want Edinburgh to make a fresh start in tackling poverty across the board – from birth to old age. That means action like increasing the availability of childcare and reducing its cost; using council contracts to promote work and training for young people; making sure people get the benefits they should be getting; and ending homelessness.

Green councillors will

- Establish an equality and anti-poverty partnership with clear targets and regular reporting to the council;
- Work with other Scottish councils and the DWP to prepare a Citizen's Income pilot in Edinburgh, where households are given a weekly sum in lieu of tax allowances or means-tested benefits;
- Take firmer action on pavement clutter that impedes mobility for people with disabilities;
- Introduce disability-friendly play equipment in all public play-parks;
- Push to get Lothian Pension Fund out of the fossil fuel and armaments industries and instead invest in socially useful projects like affordable housing;
- Improve opportunities in education, work and housing for young people who are and have been looked after by developing the council's role as continuing parents;
- Support and maintain women's refuge provision;

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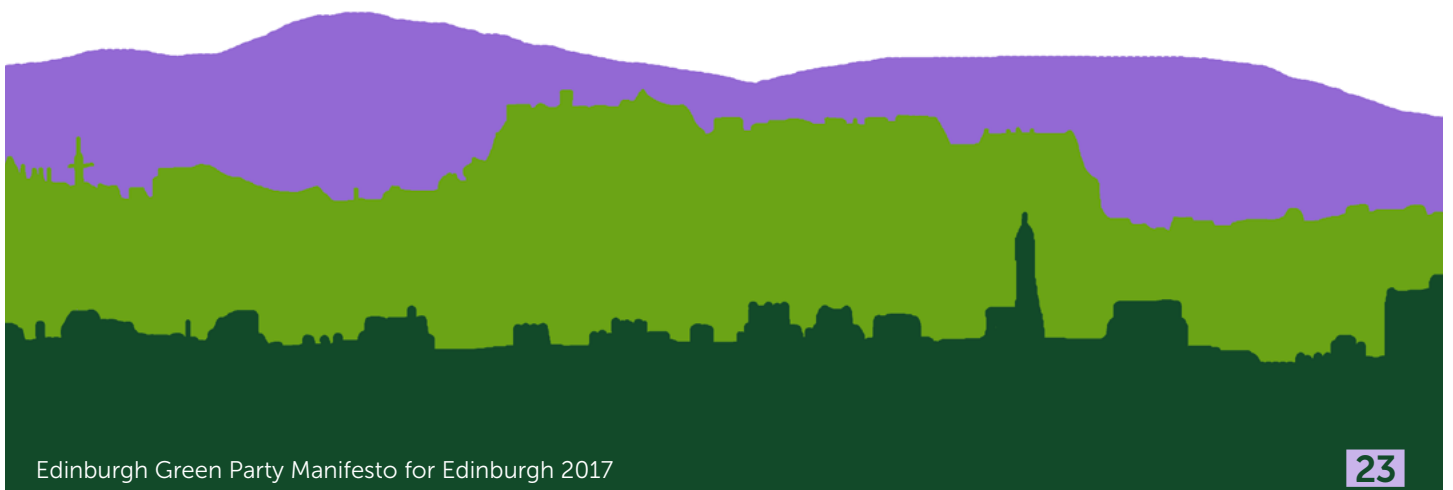
Susan Rae, Leith Walk candidate:

"I'm proud that Green councillors led action against the bedroom tax. More of that please!"

- Provide more accommodation and support for people fleeing conflict or persecution in other countries; and develop community support and welcoming programmes;
- Launch a review into the affordability and availability of the city's childcare provision looking at employer and family needs, cost, availability and location;
- Develop an animal rights charter for the city to bring together the various ways in which the city can and should promote the wellbeing of both pets and wild animals;
- Create a city-wide advice service on debt, welfare and income-maximisation with both direct council services and voluntary sector services;
- Give direct help to people hit by draconian benefit sanctions by operating an emergency fund for basic needs.

Greens have

- * Successfully pushed for a policy of no evictions over the bedroom tax;
- * Secured council backing to support calls for a Robin Hood tax on international currency exchange;
- * Joined campaigns with the message of welcoming refugees to the city.



A green revolution

We want Scotland's capital to catch up with other international cities in the way it deals with energy. We want to see the council's own energy company be successful, as well as community organisations running their own energy companies, making existing buildings more energy efficient and creating jobs in building and fitting renewable energy equipment like solar panels and wind turbines. We want large pension funds to look for positive alternatives to investing in dirty fossil fuels. And we believe that the city can use its financial expertise to develop a centre of excellence in ethical finance.

We also want to transform the way the city deals with rubbish, with a far greater focus on repair, re-use and recycling, which would reduce pressure on bin services.

Green councillors will

- Ensure that the city meets and exceeds its obligation to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gases by at least 42% by 2020 through action on energy and the transport changes, planning policies and other services detailed earlier in this manifesto;
- Sign Edinburgh up to the European Sustainable Cities Declaration which commits leading towns and cities across Europe to take action on land, energy, transport and wildlife protection, among many others;
- Ensure that the city's new energy services company, Energy for Edinburgh, delivers on its potential for low-carbon, affordable and secure energy by bringing in the dynamic staff it needs to take it forward;
- Commit to the council using all of its powers so that new homes, schools and other buildings are built to "zero carbon" standards;

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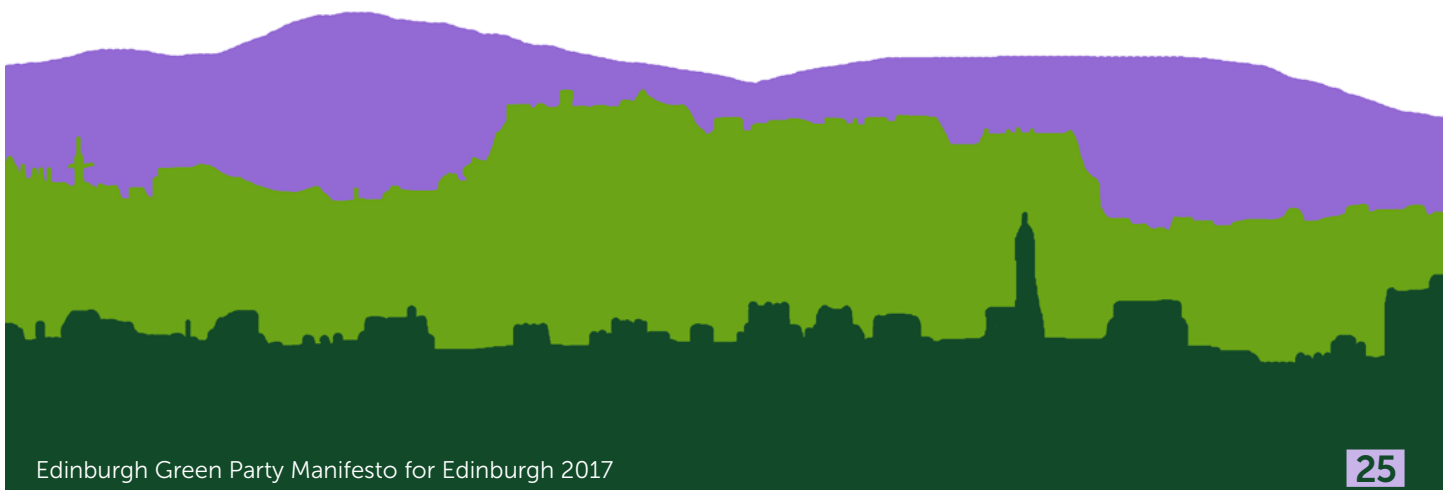
Chas Booth,
councillor for Leith:

"Edinburgh should
lead the way as
the greenest city
in the UK"

- Require that all large developments and major refurbishments should be connected into high-efficiency district heating; take a lead on developing a plan and a pipe network for district heating;
- Significantly increase the generating capacity of community renewables to at least 10MW and develop partnerships with developers on renewables;
- Introduce a major programme of energy refurbishment and better energy use of public buildings, private buildings and homes tackling fuel poverty and energy wastage;
- Introduce high-efficiency, low-maintenance LED lights in all tenement stairs, council buildings and street lights;
- Introduce a repair and re-use hub in every locality in the city to provide local alternatives to throwing goods out;
- Set a target of at least 70% of waste recycled by 2019, by reviewing domestic recycling services and enforcement of regulations for businesses, coupled with significant effort to reduce unnecessary waste from packaging and in schools, and use of schemes like Freegle;
- Increase the number of trees in the city, seek natural ways of dealing with flooding and rainwater run-off, and expand "Living Landscapes" initiatives to create more wildlife and plant-friendly spaces and green corridors.

Greens have

- * Supported and been on the board of Edinburgh Community Solar Co-op;
- * Displaced the Tories to take up a place on Energy for Edinburgh;
- * Served on boards of social enterprises including Remade, Changeworks and the Bike Station;
- * Secured support for a "Tree for every child" scheme;
- * Had a motion passed by the council opposing fracking, unconventional gas and coal gasification.



Paying for a 21st century capital

We believe in a council taking more responsibility for how the city works. Green councillors and MSPs have called for Edinburgh to have the same powers as almost every other city in Europe. This means being able to raise money from a tourist tax, a charge on private car parking for company staff or a charge on supermarkets. With those powers come greater responsibilities: to listen more, to become more accessible, and to deliver good quality services.

Green councillors will

- Introduce new processes to consult on the sale of public buildings, and with a view to ensuring community, civic or not-for-profit future uses are increased;
- Continue to campaign for the council to be given powers over tourism charges, supermarket levies and workplace/retail parking;
- Press for the passing of proceeds from Land and Buildings Transaction Tax for newly built properties to be passed to the council in order to fund the public infrastructure needed in the city: schools, transport links, green spaces, community places;
- Develop a self-replenishing loan fund for energy efficiency projects;
- Review payments for PFI/PPP contracts to ensure that the council is getting full value from them; and continue to challenge PPP/PFI as a way of funding public works;
- Investigate issuing municipal bonds as a way of raising investment; and maximise opportunities to reduce the burden of historic debt;

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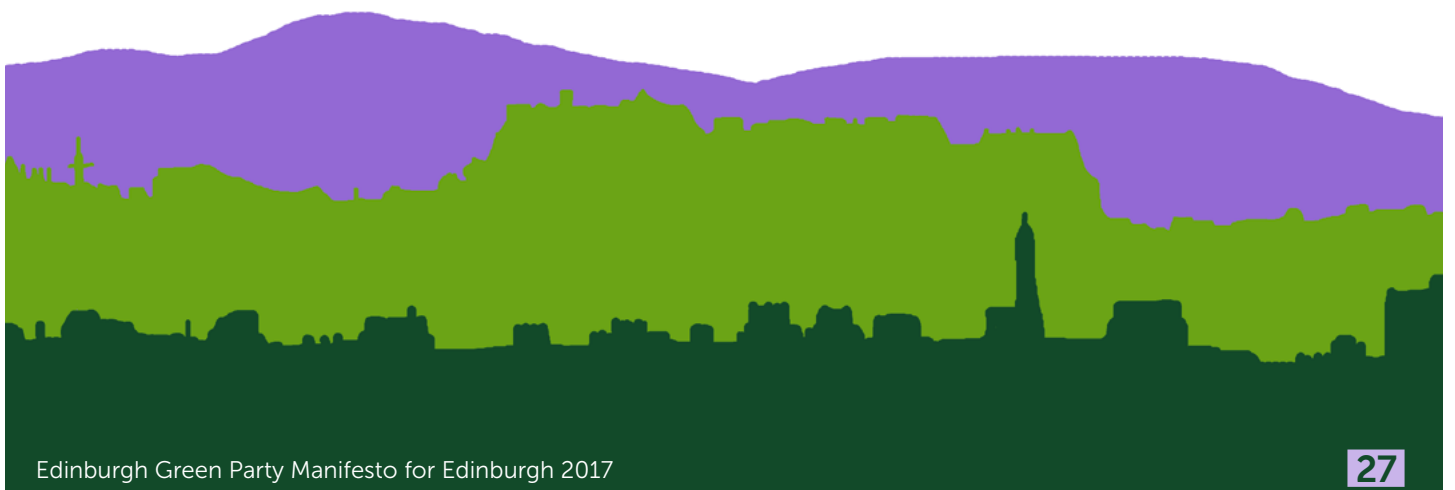
Melanie Main,
Morningside councillor:

“I want to work with Green MSPs to get the kind of funding powers which other European cities take for granted.”

- Review and risk-assess complex and controversial financial instruments like Lender Option Borrower Options (LOBOs);
- With Green MSPs push the Scottish Government to return control over at least 50% of Non-Domestic Rates to the council. In the meantime, seek to have student accommodation pay Non-Domestic Rates during periods it is used as short-term lets;
- Set up a revolving community loan fund through sale of vanity possessions starting with the Lord Provost's private car numberplate;
- Use the council's buying power as much as possible to buy from local businesses and social enterprises and with benefits to the local economy;
- With our Green MSP colleagues continue to campaign for the council tax to be scrapped and replaced by a fairer, more effective form of land value taxation.

Greens have

- * Proposed an Alternative Budget in 2015 showing how new powers could raise another £26m for city services;
- * Challenged the Scottish Government over the effect of its council tax freeze 2007–16;
- * First secured council backing for a Transient Visitor Levy in 2011;
- * Pushed for increased council tax on long-term empty homes;
- * Challenged the disposal of council buildings such as the Engine Shed, Boroughmuir High School and the old Royal High School;
- * Exposed the weak management of common good assets as demonstrated by the loss of Parliament House by St Giles' cathedral.





Edinburgh Green Party April 2017

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