



# **MAKE EDINBURGH BETTER**

## Scottish Conservative Manifesto for Edinburgh





# INTRODUCTION

**Edinburgh is a spectacular city.** It has a world class heritage and world renowned things have happened here. It has amazing people with amazing abilities.

But in recent years it has been let down by a council administration paralysed by scandal and inefficiency. **It is time for change** and the Edinburgh Conservatives have a 40-point plan to give Edinburgh the council it deserves and **the services its people deserve.**

Our top five priorities are things you will recognise, like **tackling the appalling state of our roads and pavements**, making the collection of refuse more efficient and reliable and **dealing with the embarrassing uncleanliness of our streets.**

Our superb team of candidates, full of experience in all walks of life, will deliver value for public money and work constructively, as we have in opposition, to implement **the best policies for Edinburgh.**

Edinburgh Conservatives are **ready to work heart and soul** for the people of Edinburgh, to provide a real change from a decade of wasted opportunity.

Pragmatic, able, constructive, and ambitious: **now is the time to vote for a better council with the Edinburgh Conservatives.**

Cameron Rose, Edinburgh Conservative Group Leader



## A MESSAGE FROM RUTH DAVIDSON

This year's local government election in Edinburgh is vitally important. **Voters have a clear choice** – electing strong local voices who will focus all their energies on improving local services or voting to go back to the divisions of the past.

Despite promising it would be a “**once in a generation**” decision, it didn't take long for the SNP to start demanding a second referendum on independence.

So the Council elections in May will be an important opportunity for you to tell the SNP – **we voted No to independence, respect that result** and stop trying to put us through it all again.

The simple fact is that **every SNP Councillor elected here on 4th May will use their position to agitate for another referendum**, while every Scottish Conservative elected will oppose one.

We need to make our voice heard loud and clear. **We said No to independence** and we do not want another independence referendum. Let's focus on improving our local services instead.

That's what your Scottish Conservative & Unionist councillors will do every day.





# TOP TEN PRIORITIES

## ONE

**Improve the condition of Edinburgh's roads, paths and pavements for all.** **i)** We will improve the technical specification of repairs. **ii)** We will prioritise improvements and **iii)** commit more money and **iv)** restructure the tendering and delivery of repairs and maintenance to get the best value for money

## TWO

**Improve waste collection and street cleaning** making them more reliable, more cost effective whilst reducing paid landfill taxes and increasing recycling rates. We will tender parts or all of the service, always prioritising higher standards and lower costs

## THREE

**Create an Edinburgh Index**, published annually or more frequently, showing an assessment of road, path and pavement conditions, recycling rates, cost of council tax collection, cost of household refuse collection along with other key measures of council performance.



## **FOUR**

**Speed up the provision of all types of housing**, especially on brownfield sites. This will be achieved by measures which include **a reduction in planning delays** and **a removal or reduction of the 25% affordable housing requirement** for targeted brownfield sites taking pressure from green space development.

## **FIVE**

**Suspend the implementation of the remaining phases of the 20mph zones** and undertake a review of the blanket policy.

## **SIX**

**Scrap current plans for the extension of Sunday Parking charges** in the city centre.

## **SEVEN**

**Reject the current business case for extending the trams** as too expensive, too long (5-6 years) and too soon (the inquiry by Lord Hardie has still to report).



## **EIGHT**

**Reduce congestion on Edinburgh roads** through a range of measures including: **i)** improved roadworks co-ordination  
**ii)** prioritise flow (not speed) reducing stop/start impact and  
**iii)** improve traffic light responsiveness

## **NINE**

**Develop a new cultural trust** for museums, art galleries, theatres and libraries bringing on board expertise from the voluntary, culture and business sectors.

## **TEN**

**Improve the maintenance of school and other council buildings.**



# EDUCATION

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

**Prioritise improving attainment** for all children in schools.

Work with head teachers to **encourage improvements in exercise** and fitness amongst young people through the Daily Mile, StepToday or other measures.

**Create a new board** of head teachers, university and business leaders and parents to progress the achievement of the right skills for young people.

**Offer prizes in conjunction with Head Teachers** for pupils and schools which achieve distinction and excellence in specific fields





# HOUSING

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

**Prioritise delivering different sizes and types of properties and ownership.**

Engage with residents, students and universities and colleges to **find the best response to the significant expansion of student accommodation** provision.

**Trial self build serviced housing plots.**

**Maintain a mix in the City Centre** which includes a healthy residential component.

**Improve energy efficiency** in housing through planning and through council house maintenance.



# COUNCIL EFFICIENCY

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

**Ensure Council Tax is at the lowest level possible**, always prioritising value for money and quality of service for the taxpayer.

**Streamline the running of the Council** by taking city wide decisions in a Council Executive Cabinet.

**Develop further the four service delivery and administrative localities** of the city.

**Review Council membership of outside bodies** reducing membership of such bodies by at least 25% in order to focus on key priorities.

**Make it easier to report faults or poor service** and to carry out routine transactions with the council.

**Reduce the number of committees**, streamline the remainder and review and reduce the number of working groups.



# TRANSPORT

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

Work with the Scottish Government and transport bodies to **find solutions for congestion on the City Bypass.**

**Increase targeted provision for pedestrians** such as safe school zones, pedestrian zones and addressing casualty blackspots.

Support a summit of local and national groups to **make better use of rail provision.**

Improve the condition of and **extend cycle paths** and routes.

**Link up current cycle paths** across the city centre.

**Retain Lothian Buses** in council ownership.



# **SPORT, LEISURE, CULTURE & HERITAGE**

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

**Commit to reducing air pollution** and continue measures to monitor and reduce particulate pollution.

**Commit to the redevelopment of Meadowbank Sports Centre.**

**Protect and enhance Edinburgh's world class heritage.**



# **SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH**

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

**Improve the effectiveness of social care** by using innovation and technology to support carers.

**Encourage, support and extend self directed care.**

**Prioritise improvement of mental health care.**

Review and seek opportunities to **support carers of all ages.**





# BUSINESS

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

**Support small businesses** by streamlining routine business transactions such as obtaining building warrants, completion certificates and every possible interaction with the Council.

# CRIME

Edinburgh Conservatives will:

Support and promote **measures to prevent and respond to crime** and especially housebreaking and pursue more localised provision of crime statistics.



# CANDIDATES

## **ALMOND**

Graham Hutchison

## **PENTLAND HILLS**

Graeme Bruce  
Susan Webber

## **DRUM BRAE/GYLE**

Mark Brown

## **FORTH**

Jim Campbell

## **INVERLEITH**

Max Mitchell  
Iain Whyte

## **CORSTORPHINE/ MURRAYFIELD**

Scott Douglas

## **SIGHTHILL/GORGIE**

Ashley Graczyk

## **COLINTON/FAIRMILEHEAD**

Phil Daggart  
Jason Rust

## **FOUNTAINBRIDGE/ CRAIGLOCKHART**

Andrew Johnston

## **MORNINGSIDE**

Nick Cook  
Chris Land

## **CITY CENTRE**

Joanna Mowat

## **LEITH WALK**

Christina Marga

## **LEITH**

Paul Penman

## **CRAIGENTINNY/ DUDDINGSTON**

John McLellan

## **SOUTHSIDE/NEWINGTON**

Cameron Rose

## **LIBERTON/GILMERTON**

Stephanie Smith

## **PORTOBELLO/CRAIGMILLAR**

Callum Laidlaw

