

**A NEW CONTRACT WITH THE CAPITAL**

**CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**

**COALITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EDINBURGH SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY AND THE EDINBURGH LABOUR PARTY**

PREAMBLE

Edinburgh is known the world over as an historic city and capital of the nation. Over recent decades it has become successful and prosperous and a great place to live and work.

Yet, major challenges face our city and the Council needs strong leadership and a stable political environment to ensure that the services, amenities and reputation of the capital continue to improve over the coming five years. The Council will continue to be unambiguously elected member led.

With the Local Government elections over, this Contract with the Capital marks a Council who will continue to listen to local people and work together with local communities, business and the third sector. A Council where co-operation, fairness, accountability and responsibility will really matter.

A Council that supports existing business and provides opportunities for economic growth and local and international inward investment.

Below is a list of commitments that the signatories to this contract will deliver during the 2017-2021 term of this Council. The City will be able to judge the Council against this promise.

We now agree to Putting Edinburgh First the benefit of the city and its people, based on stability and confidence, with greater consensus-based decision-making which better reflects public opinion.

WHEREAS:

(A) WE, THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY and THE EDINBURGH LABOUR PARTY groups of councillors of the City of Edinburgh Council (respectively the “**Partners**” and each a “**Partner**”) entered into heads of terms dated ; and

(B) The Partners now wish to set out in this coalition agreement (“**Agreement**”) the terms on which we agree to form a partnership administration for the City of Edinburgh Council (“**Council**”).

THEREFORE WE AGREE as follows:

## 1 **PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 The Partners agree to form a partnership administration (“**Partnership**”) for the City of Edinburgh Council on the terms set out in this Agreement.

## 2 **PARTNERSHIP VISION**

- 2.1 The Partnership will act in the best interests of Edinburgh and its people in a co-operative, open and participatory manner, involving citizens, business and the third sector, keeping them informed, and listening to and reflecting their views in developing and delivering effective and efficient services and amenities.

- 2.2 The Partnership’s central priority is to build a co-operative, more prosperous, Edinburgh in which every resident and community benefits.

## 3 **PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS**

- 3.1 The Partnership’s key commitments (“**Commitments**”) are:-

3.1.1 ensuring every child in Edinburgh has the best start in life;

3.1.2 reducing poverty, inequality and deprivation;

3.1.3 providing for Edinburgh’s prosperity;

3.1.4 strengthening and supporting our communities and keeping them safe;

3.1.5 ensuring Edinburgh, and its residents, are well cared-for; and

3.1.6 maintaining and improving the quality of life in Edinburgh.

- 3.2 Further details of the Commitments are set out in Part 1 of the Schedule.

- 3.3 The Partnership will set up a cross-party working group with regular meetings to review progress of delivery of the Commitments.

- 3.4 The Partnership will present an annual review of progress on delivery of the Commitments to Council. The residents of Edinburgh will be involved in that review.

- 3.5 Where further priorities emerge or circumstances change, revisions to the Commitments will be agreed between the Partners in a manner consistent with the principles of this Agreement and reported to Council at least annually.

## 4 **GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 The Partnership will operate in an open and inclusive manner with cross-party representation on committees.

- 4.2 The Partnership will continue to ensure that the City of Edinburgh Council is unambiguously elected member led.

- 4.3 The Leader of the Council (“**Leader**”) will be the convener of the Policy & Strategy Committee and the Deputy Leader will be the vice-convener of the Policy & Strategy Committee.

- 4.4 The executive committees of the Council will be: (TBC), or such other committees as the Partners may agree.
- 4.5 The Partnership will continue to devolve power to Localities through Locality Committees and will oppose any centralisation of local government powers by either the Scottish or Westminster governments.
- 4.6 The Partnership will always Put Edinburgh First and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Partnership will lobby both the Scottish and Westminster Governments to promote Edinburgh and the Council's interests.
- 4.7 The Partnership will campaign against austerity in all its forms and will lobby both the Westminster and the Scottish Government to ensure that local services are adequately funded.
- 4.8 The Partnership recognises that the SNP and Labour Party have different policies on independence and consequently each will be free to campaign outwith the Council whenever appropriate.
- 4.9 The Partnership is committed to consulting and meeting with the Council unions on a regular basis.

## **5 PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

- 5.1 The Partnership is founded on the democratic principles of trust, equity, openness and fairness and is committed to delivering the highest quality of services to all the people and communities of Edinburgh.
- 5.2 The Partnership will operate in a consensual manner in developing policy and determining service investment.
- 5.3 The Partnership will hold regular meetings and will promote and facilitate the continuous exchange of ideas and information between the Partners. Joint meetings of the Partners will be held when necessary and parties will remain in regular contact through the offices of the respective group leaders.
- 5.4 Members of either Partner group will be able to ask questions of the Partnership, providing that there has been prior discussion and that neither Partner will seek to embarrass the other in conducting Council business.
- 5.5 This Agreement does not restrict elected members from campaigning during local elections.
- 5.6 The Partners shall ensure that all individual members of their respective party groups fulfil their roles and responsibilities, in particular in attending and voting at all key committees in order to secure the Partnership's decisions.

6           **RESOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP DIFFERENCES**

6.1          Where an agreed Partnership position cannot be reached through the regular working arrangements set out in clause 5, a panel will be formed comprising three senior party members of each of the Partners (including their respective spokespeople for the relevant subject) to work together in good faith to resolve the matter.

6.2          If the matter cannot be resolved by the panel referred to in clause 6.1 within a reasonable period of time, the matter shall be escalated to an extraordinary joint group meeting of the Partners which shall take place as soon as is practicable and shall work in good faith to reach an agreed position.

7           **PUBLICITY**

7.1          The Partners consent to the issue of a press release, substantially in the agreed form attached at Part 2 of the Schedule, immediately following the execution of this Agreement.

7.2          Any statements or press releases, issued by any member of a party group on behalf of the Partnership, will reflect the Partnership position as mutually agreed between the Partners.

7.3          The Leader and committee conveners will be the Partnership's nominated spokespeople in relation to their respective portfolios.

8           **TERMINATION**

8.1          If resolution is not agreed as described in clauses 6.1 and 6.2, this Agreement may be terminated by service of written notice by the group leader of a Partner upon the group leader of the other Partner.

9           **VARIATION AND ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

9.1          No variation of this agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the group leader or other authorised representative of each Partner.

9.2 This Agreement constitutes the whole agreement between the parties and supersedes all previous agreements between the parties relating to its subject matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Agreement is signed at Edinburgh on two thousand and seventeen by

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Councillor Adam McVey  
for and on behalf of  
**THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL  
PARTY GROUP**

.....  
Councillor Cammy Day  
for and on behalf of  
**THE EDINBURGH LABOUR  
GROUP**

before this witness

before this witness

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**THIS IS THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING COALITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EDINBURGH SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY AND THE EDINBURGH LABOUR PARTY DATED 2017**

**SCHEDULE**

**PART 1 – COMMITMENTS**

**Delivering an economy for all- local jobs, growth and affordable housing**

1. Deliver a programme to build at least 10,000 social and affordable homes over the next 5 years, with a plan to build 20,000 by 2027.
2. Create the conditions for businesses to thrive. Invest in supporting businesses, social enterprise, training in hi tech, creative and other key sectors including co-operatives. Help link business with young people to ensure the workforce of the future is guaranteed work, training or education on leaving school.
3. Work with the business community to grow the number of Living Wage employers year on year.
4. Direct development to growth corridors as the best way to accommodate the extra housing needed for Edinburgh's growth and allow the city to manage and protect the green belt.
5. Sign Edinburgh up to the Pay Fair Tax initiative, promoted by the co-operative movement
6. Deliver the City Region Deal ensuring the benefits of the investment are shared throughout the city.
7. Improve access to employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities
8. Explore the introduction of fair rent zones.
9. Create a Homelessness Task Force to investigate the growing homelessness problem in the city. The Team will review the use of bed and breakfast premises and explore alternatives that better meet the needs of individuals and families with an aim to end the use of bed and breakfast facilities. Appoint a Homelessness Champion who will chair the Task Force.

**Building for a future Edinburgh - a planning system that works to protect and develop our city**

10. Prioritise the use of brownfield sites and work with public sector and private landowners to develop land for affordable housing.
11. Ensure that Council policies on planning, licensing and sale of council land give substantial weight to the needs of residents while still encouraging business and tourism.
12. Review the Council's policy on promoting mixed communities. The review should be completed by the summer of 2018 and should include homes of multiple occupancy, short term temporary lets and student housing.
13. Improve planning enforcement to ensure that all developers large or small conform to Edinburgh's policies and developers' promises.

14. Work with the Scottish Government to review planning policy and overhaul the planning appeal system to make it shorter, more independent and give communities the right of appeal.
15. Protect Edinburgh's World Heritage Status and make sure developments maintain the vibrancy of our city in terms of placemaking, design and diversity of use.

#### **Delivering as sustainable future - a better environment and transport system that works for all**

16. Invest £100 million in roads and pavements over the next 5 years. This will include road and pavement maintenance, installing more pedestrian crossings, increasing the number of dropped kerbs and dedicated, safer foot and cycle paths as well as introducing more pedestrian zones.
17. Guarantee 10% of transport budget on improving cycling in the city.
18. Improve Edinburgh's air quality and reduce carbon emissions. Explore the development of a low emissions zone.
19. Keep the city moving by reducing congestion, improving public transport to rural west Edinburgh and cutting unnecessary roadworks.
20. Explore the introduction of a lane rental for utility companies to reduce traffic pressure.
21. Retain Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams in public ownership.
22. Deliver the tram extension to Newhaven by 2022 after reviewing the business case and delivery plan to ensure they are robust.
23. Implement improvement plans for waste and cleansing services to improve street cleanliness in every ward. Reintroduce a free bulky item collection service to tackle fly tipping.
24. Reduce the incidence of dog fouling on Edinburgh's streets and public parks.
25. Increase recycling to 60% from 46% during the lifetime of the administration.
26. Improve parking for residents by expanding provision of park and rides for commuters.
27. Tackle pavement parking and reduce street clutter to improve accessibility.

#### **Delivering for our children and families – improving lives and futures**

28. Create a first-class education estate - developing 2 new secondary schools and 10 new primaries by 2021. Ensure safe standards are met by rigorous inspections of new and existing school buildings.
29. Improve and protect access to additional languages and music tuition and encourage more children and young people to gain vital skills in construction, engineering, digital technology, maths and science.
30. Increase the number of classroom assistants and support staff for children with additional needs to improve attainment and wellbeing.
31. Expand training opportunities for adults & young people, linking with colleges and expanding vocational education.

32. Double free early learning and child care provision, providing 1140 hours a year for all 3 and 4 year olds and vulnerable 2 year olds by 2020.
33. Make early years' provision more flexible to fit families' needs and provide additional resources to families in difficulty so that no children are already falling behind when they start formal schooling.
34. Prioritise services for vulnerable children and families and looked after children, and support organisations working to end domestic abuse.
35. Improve access to library services and community centres making them more digital, and delivering them in partnership with local communities.
36. Support the continued development of Gaelic Medium Education.

### **Delivering a healthier city - strong and vibrant communities**

37. Continue to integrate health and social care services. Review the Integration Joint Board's approach to support at home by 2018.
38. Take steps to increase the length and flexibility of care visits and increase the availability of care to help people live in their own homes.
39. Put exercise at the heart of our health strategy by increasing access to sport and leisure facilities.
40. Review the application process and increase the budget for housing adaptations with a view to supporting more disabled tenants and owners to remain in their own homes. Help older and disabled homeowners to move to more suitable housing should they wish to do so.
41. Build the new Meadowbank Sports Centre by 2021.
42. Work with the Integration Joint Board (NHS & Council Social Care) to prioritise early intervention and prevention in mental health services.
43. Continue to upgrade our existing parks and plant an additional 1,000 trees in our communities. Protect major recreational areas such as the Meadows, Leith Links and Princes Street Gardens from excessive commercial use.
44. Increase allotment provision and support and expand the network and the number of community gardens and food growing initiatives.
45. Establish a Child Poverty Action Unit to address the inequalities faced by children in poverty in our city. Its remit will look at food security and nutrition, tackle food poverty and holiday hunger and enhance nutrition in schools. Ensure that a Poverty Assessment section features in all Council reports.
46. Continue to support the city's major festivals which generate jobs and boost local businesses and increase the funding for local festivals and events. Support the creation of further work spaces for artists and craftspeople.

### **Delivering a Council that works for all - more empowered, transparent and improved public services**



47. Become a leading council in Scotland for community engagement - 1% of the Council's discretionary budget will be allocated through participatory budgeting.
48. Continue to make the case to the Scottish Government for the introduction of a Transient Visitor Levy and explore the possibility of introducing more flexibility in the application of business rates. Explore the possibility of introducing a workplace parking levy.
49. Limit Council Tax increases to 3% a year to 2021.
50. Continue a policy of no compulsory redundancies and keep a presumption in favour of in-house service provision.
51. Improve community safety by protecting local policing and empowering communities to tackle long term safety issues and hate crime in all its forms through restorative justice initiatives and other projects.
52. Devolve local decisions to four Locality Committees. Establish the membership of each Committee and how devolved decision making will work to encourage the maximum participation of local groups. Explore the effectiveness of community councils and how they can be enhanced to represent their local communities.