

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council  
**MEETING DATE:** 15 May 2012  
**BY:** Chief Executive  
**SUBJECT:** Administration Manifestos

---

**10**

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report presents the Manifestos of the two Administration Party groups – Scottish Labour Party and Scottish Conservative Party which set out the Administration’s priorities for the term of office 2012 – 2017.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council adopt the contents of these documents as Council policy with immediate effect.
- 2.2 It is further recommended that these manifestos be reflected within the new Council Plan which is to be presented to the August Council meeting. A joint Administration agreement will be prepared that will help inform this process.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Following the elections in May of this year, elected members from both the Labour and Conservative groups and the Independent Councillor have formed a new Administration.
- 3.2 The Leaders of the Labour and Conservative groups have requested that their parties’ respective Manifestos be placed before the Council as the joint statement of intent of the new Administration.
- 3.3 The Council adopted a draft Council Plan in January and it was agreed that a final version of the Council Plan would be brought back to the Council following the Council elections. The final version of the Council Plan 2012-2017 will be aligned with the Administration manifestos and take account of and reflect the priorities and commitments identified by the incoming Administration.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Should Council approve the contents of the Administration manifestos as Council policy documents, this will provide a critically important statement of policy direction that will shape the development of the Council Plan 2012-2017 along with the joint Administration agreement.

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 There is no direct impact on equalities and therefore an equalities impact assessment has not been carried out. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on the Council Plan before it is presented to full Council in August.

#### **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 At this stage, no assessment has been made of the financial, personnel or other implications associated with the commitments made in the manifestos document. These will require to be considered further in the context of the re-drafted Council Plan and detailed business plans for each service and must also be aligned with both current and future budgets.

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Appendix A: Let's Work Together for a Better East Lothian: East Lothian Labour Party 2012 Council Election Manifesto
- 7.2 Appendix B: Putting Local People First: Scottish Conservatives East Lothian 2012 Council Election Manifesto
- 7.3 Draft Council Plan 2012-2017; report to East Lothian Council 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Paolo Vestri
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Corporate Policy Manager
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	pvestri@eastlothian.gov.uk Tel: Ext. 7320
<b>DATE</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2012

# **EAST LOTHIAN LABOUR PARTY**

**Let's work together  
for a better East Lothian**

**2012 COUNCIL ELECTION MANIFESTO**

## **A Vision for a Better East Lothian**

**We are proud of East Lothian. It is a great county with great people and great communities. But it could be so much better.**

**East Lothian Labour Party is committed to working together with the people and communities of East Lothian to create a prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian.**

**Labour is closer to our communities and so has a greater understanding of the issues affecting our county and Labour will make the real differences that will improve the quality of life for all East Lothian's citizens and communities.**

**The SNP/ Lib Dem council has failed to deliver on key manifesto commitments and has let East Lothian down by:**

- ❖ Failing to reduce class sizes and cutting teacher numbers instead; there are 83 fewer teachers than when they took office, the number of composite classes has doubled under the SNP
- ❖ Breaking their pledge to transfer decision making and budgets to local forums
- ❖ Outsourcing care of the elderly services to the private sector
- ❖ Cutting the subsidy supporting bus services, isolating many rural communities. Far too much of the county has no public transport at all
- ❖ Transferring the management of East Lothian schools to Midlothian Council where schools are performing below the level of East Lothian schools

**Worst of all, the SNP/ Lib Dem Council failed to stand up for East Lothian during the recession.**

**While unemployment has been rising faster in East Lothian than across Scotland as a whole, and youth unemployment even faster still, the SNP Council has been giving orders, contracts and jobs worth over £100 million every year to companies from out with East Lothian.**

**The SNP have made it clear that they will count your vote as a vote for a separate Scotland; Labour will count your vote as a vote for a better East Lothian.**

**Let's work together for a better East Lothian**

## **Our Key Pledges to the People of East Lothian**

**East Lothian Labour Party makes five key pledges to the people of East Lothian to create a prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian where its people and communities can flourish.**

### **We will:**

- ❖ Deliver sustainable economic growth and jobs – every policy in a Labour Council will be assessed for the impact it will have on jobs and economic prosperity
- ❖ Give our children the best start in life – a Labour Council will work with children and young people, parents, teachers, health professionals and local communities to provide the best opportunities for all children and young people
- ❖ Protect vulnerable and older people – a Labour Council will fulfil its legal and moral duties to assist vulnerable and older people to live with dignity and respect
- ❖ Help our communities to flourish – a Labour Council will devolve decision making to ensure that our people have a real say in the decisions that matter most and provide communities with the housing, transport links and community facilities that will allow them to flourish
- ❖ Ensure women and children who experience domestic violence have access to specialist services and support

**Under Labour, East Lothian Council would deliver the highest quality public services and reject outsourcing of council services.**

**All Labour councillors will be accessible at all times, they will work with and act in the best interests of their local communities.**

**This manifesto outlines what East Lothian Labour will do to achieve these pledges.**

### **❖ Create sustainable economic growth and jobs**

**Creating a prosperous East Lothian is our central aim. So creating opportunities for jobs and strong sustainable economic growth will be at the core of the Council's work.**

**Every Council policy will be subject to an assessment of its impact on jobs and the economy in East Lothian, policies that threaten jobs will be rejected.**

**Let's work together for a better East Lothian**

**These are the commitments East Lothian Labour makes to support our pledge to create opportunities for sustainable economic growth and jobs.**

- Ensure the Council's Local Development Plan supports jobs and opportunities for strong sustainable economic growth. The planning system needs to protect East Lothian's environment but it also needs to support developments that allow East Lothian's economy to grow
- Reduce the time taken to determine commercial planning applications in order to help local businesses grow and to attract new job opportunities to East Lothian
- Guarantee local companies the opportunity to compete for Council contracts and provide dedicated support to enable them to effectively compete for public sector contracts
- Promote Community Benefit in procurement to ensure that local people and communities benefit as much as possible from contracts the Council places with private companies
- Work in partnership with the business sector to develop land zoned for business, where appropriate the Council will fund the infrastructure required to bring economic investment and jobs into East Lothian
- Regenerate East Lothian's Town Centres and shopping areas; for example by introducing initiatives to re-open empty shops, reduce congestion and fund and promote "Shop Locally" initiatives
- Introduce a new Economic Forum with the business and farming community that gives them real influence over the economic policies that will drive forward the East Lothian economy
- Implement a skills and employment strategy that aims to give every young person either a training opportunity, an apprenticeship or a job; key to this will be the Council jointly funding apprenticeship and training places with local companies
- Increase support for new business start ups and growth through initiatives such as interest free loans, cash flow support and business advice
- Create partnerships with house builders to kick start the construction industry, provide affordable housing of all tenures and help young people to enter the housing market
- Support and develop appropriate tourism opportunities across East Lothian
- Improve communication links across the whole of East Lothian by taking a proactive role to plan, promote and support the roll out of faster Broadband
- Work with the voluntary sector to develop social enterprises, making use of the Social Investment Fund and other sources of funding and support
- Guarantee that East Lothian Council employees are paid a 'Living Wage'

**Let's work together for a better East Lothian**

## ❖ Give our children the best start in life

**Every child has the right to be given the best start in life, with access to the highest standard of living, education, health care and play.**

**We will work with children and young people, parents, teachers, health professionals and local communities to provide the best opportunities for all children and young people to make the right choices.**

**Following years of continual change in education, we believe our schools need a period of stability and our priority will be to properly resource the development of “Curriculum for Excellence”.**

**These are the commitments East Lothian Labour makes to support our pledge to give our children the best start in life.**

- Guarantee nursery places for all 3 and 4 year olds and begin an ambitious programme to develop children centres across East Lothian
- Properly resource an implementation strategy to secure the maximum benefit of ‘Curriculum for Excellence’ for all East Lothian pupils
- Protect school budgets, and reduce the number of composite classes
- Introduce a £100,000 budget for each secondary school cluster for the schools to determine their joint priorities
- Take advantage of technological opportunities for senior pupils to access all subjects at their own school
- Provide vocational training spaces in all secondary schools
- Develop the Council’s partnerships with Queen Margaret University and Further Education Colleges to ensure that our young people can access higher and further education opportunities, together with an enhanced vocational experience
- Support and develop the “Support from the Start” initiative and other early intervention projects with families and children

## ❖ Let’s work together for a better East Lothian

## ❖ **Protect vulnerable and older people**

**You can judge a society by how it treats vulnerable people. While the Council has a legal duty to care for vulnerable people, we believe it also has a moral responsibility to ensure that all vulnerable adults and older people have access to high quality services and to be treated with dignity and respect at all times.**

**We must ensure that resources are made available to support and help vulnerable adults and older people to live independent lives.**

**These are the commitments East Lothian Labour makes to support our pledge to protect vulnerable and older people.**

- Modernise adult day services led by users, their families and carers in a genuine partnership of equals. We will also guarantee personal development plans for all vulnerable adults
- Review and improve day centre provision across East Lothian for our elderly citizens
- Provide high quality regular respite opportunities locally for carers and users of care services
- Develop early intervention measures for the elderly based on a modernised Home Help/Home Care system
- Halt the outsourcing of home care services
- Give guaranteed assessment times for vulnerable and elderly people needing care
- Explore the opportunity for social enterprise companies to deliver home care and other appropriate services
- Develop more sheltered and other housing options for older people and reduce the time taken to provide adaptations to houses
- Protect existing local health care services and work with the NHS to ensure East Lothian residents have access to local community hospitals providing a complete range of services
- Tackle poverty and mitigate the effects of the UK Government's welfare cuts; increase access to welfare and money advice; and promote Credit Unions

**Let's work together for a better East Lothian**



## ❖ **Help our communities to flourish**

**All of East Lothian's towns and villages have a strong sense of community. Our people and communities need a balance of public and private housing, good quality transport links and access to public transport as well as community facilities that will allow them to flourish.**

**Our people also need to have a real say in the decisions that matter most to their communities.**

**These are the commitments East Lothian Labour makes to support our pledge to help our communities flourish.**

- Devolve decision making and budgets to Local Area Forums; ensure that all Community Councils and local interest groups have the opportunity to participate fully and have a real input into developing their priorities
- Build new affordable housing for rent, shared ownership and sale to meet the demands of our communities
- Introduce sustainable, fair housing allocation policies that create balanced communities and not just house vulnerable people
- Provide supported temporary tenancies to allow young and vulnerable people to develop the skills to enable them to sustain a permanent tenancy
- Re-introduce the provision of loft conversions and extensions for tenants
- Implement a Transport Strategy that improves road and rail transportation links across East Lothian and supports community transport initiatives
- Improve the quality and accessibility of public transport across East Lothian, including restoring rural bus services cut by the SNP administration
- Introduce measures to reduce speeding particularly in residential areas, including 20 miles per hour speed limits where they have the support of residents
- Increase the level of maintenance on road network, our footpaths and improve the surface water drainage on the road network in our towns and countryside to prevent flooding
- We will meet recycling targets; by providing more opportunities and incentives for people to recycle. We will provide rewards to communities for reaching targets and investigate ways of dealing with the recyclable material we collect in East Lothian locally

**Let's work together for a better East Lothian**

## ❖ **Help our communities to flourish**

- Press the Scottish Government for the re-regulation of bus services
- Restore “free special uplifts”, take action to reduce fly-tipping and introduce tougher penalties to deter dog fouling
- We will implement the Council’s Environment Strategy and reduce the Council’s and the County’s CO2 emissions in line with national targets
- Support measures to protect our coast and towns from flooding and coastal erosion
- Enhance our natural environment both in the country and in our towns and villages – implement effective weed control; collect grass cuttings in our estates; re-instate summer and winter planting; improve maintenance of parks and open spaces; work with schools to encourage children and young people to appreciate and nurture the environment
- Keep our school buildings open and available for community use outwith school time and review opening hours of community facilities with a view to increasing activities and use by young people
- Commission a new sports development strategy, involving local sports organisations to ensure the next step is taken to develop our talented sports men and women
- Implement our previous commitment to extend our centre of excellence at Meadowmill which included a gymnastic arena and skate board park
- Maintain and enhance the extra police officers introduced by the last labour Council to tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce crime
- Support East Lothian’s voluntary sector, social enterprises and community organisations
- Support East Lothian gaining Fair Trade County status
- We will honour the commitments made to our communities in the Council’s capital programme

**Let’s work together for a better East Lothian**

East Lothian Council **elections 2012**

putting **local**  
**people** first



Scottish Conservatives believe in local government. We believe that decisions should be taken as locally as possible; closest to the communities affected and with local people having a much greater say over the shape of local services.

That's why the Scottish Conservatives are standing on a manifesto of radically devolving power. We will devolve powers from the Scottish Parliament to local councils and we want councils in turn to pass as many of those powers as possible down to individual communities.

All across Scotland, Conservative Councillors are working hard, representing their communities and helping improve the quality of life for local people.

We are fighting for more efficient services and to hold down Council Tax bills. We are fighting for investment to improve local schools, for better leisure services, for good quality rented housing and to protect our environment.

A vote for the Scottish Conservatives on 3<sup>rd</sup> May is a vote to strengthen our local democracy. It's a vote for value for money, good quality services and to elect Conservative Councillors who care about and want to serve their communities.



**Ruth Davidson MSP**  
Leader, Scottish Conservative Party



**For those of us who are fortunate enough to call East Lothian home, we know that it is a great place to live and work, with a really good quality of life. The East Lothian Conservatives care passionately about our county, and will continue to strive hard to maintain and enhance all that is good about living here. We will also work hard to change things for the better wherever improvement is required.**

Over the past several years, the Conservatives on East Lothian Council have been working hard to stand up for the interests of the county. Our highly experienced team of Ludovic Broun-Lindsay and Neil Rankin have helped achieve a range of improvements.

As a minority opposition party, we have sought to persuade and influence the Administration in a number of important areas.

- We have for many years urged that more be spent on repairing our roads – this is now being done.
- We have supported, and continue to support, sensible affordable housing initiatives.
- We support Community Care initiatives, as well as Town Centre Regeneration projects.
- We support the retention and enhancement of our rural schools, and actively supported the retention of our small 'Cottage' Hospitals.

With a larger number of Scottish Conservative councillors on East Lothian Council after 3<sup>rd</sup> May, our influence would increase - and with that, our successes.



**Ludovic Broun-Lindsay**  
Conservative Leader, East Lothian Council

## YOUR CANDIDATES

Over the past five years, the East Lothian Conservatives have shown we can make a real difference on East Lothian Council, and are determined to do so again. We are contesting every ward in the county, from Musselburgh in the west to Dunbar in the east, and are steadfastly committed to ensuring that every community receives the representation it deserves.



**Katie Mackie**  
Musselburgh West



**Fred Lawson**  
Musselburgh East and  
Carberry



**Lachlan Bruce**  
Preston/Seton/Gosford



**Robert Cowe**  
Fa'side



**Tim Day**  
North Berwick Coastal



**Ludovic Broun-Lindsay**  
Haddington and  
Lammermuir



**Michael Veitch**  
Dunbar and East  
Linton

**Working hard to  
stand up for the  
interests of the  
county**

**Supporting sensible  
affordable housing  
initiatives**

**Backing Town Centre  
Regeneration  
projects**

**Retaining and  
enhancing our rural  
schools**

**Retaining our small  
'Cottage' Hospitals**

**Committed to  
ensuring that every  
community receives  
the representation it  
deserves**

# Our policies

**The East Lothian Conservatives have a range of policies which we would wish to pursue if elected this May. The following list contains some of our core priorities, but is by no means an exhaustive list of what we stand for. Indeed, we are extremely keen to hear from you about the issues which matter most to you, and would be grateful for your feedback.**

## Affordable housing

East Lothian Conservatives believe that high quality, affordable housing is the cornerstone of a strong and successful community. Working together with housing associations, developers, local communities and other partners, we would prioritise the building of sustainable new homes to address the urgent need within East Lothian.

All too often local people are priced out of the local housing market - we will introduce additional weighting for local people and people with a proven family connection to East Lothian, allowing them to continue to live and work in the area. We will also reintroduce a “modernized right to buy”, giving people a greater stake in their local community through home ownership and investing 100% of the receipts to fund new affordable housing rather than place so much of the burden on higher council rents.



## Public services

While the current economic conditions have undoubtedly put pressure on budgets, taxpayers in East Lothian have every right to expect high quality public services across the county. East Lothian Conservatives are firmly committed to investing in the services which matter to local people, and will work hard to ensure that funding is ploughed into front line services and not squandered on excessive bureaucracy.

**We will prioritise the building of sustainable new homes to address the urgent need within East Lothian**

**We will introduce additional weighting for local people and people with a proven family connection to East Lothian**

**We will work hard to ensure that funding is ploughed into front line services and not squandered on excessive bureaucracy**

We firmly believe that public services should be kept as local as possible, and to that end we are absolutely committed to the retention of our excellent local schools, including those in our rural communities. We will also fight any future attempts to downgrade local health facilities such as the Edington Hospital in North Berwick and the Belhaven Hospital in Dunbar.

## Council Tax

Scottish Conservatives have been long standing supporters of the hugely successful Council Tax freeze, which has proved to be an invaluable benefit to a great many families in the current economic climate. We are totally committed to retaining the freeze here in East Lothian.

## Efficiency

It is disgraceful that for far too many people, local government has become a byword for inefficiency and waste. The hard working tax payers of East Lothian deserve value for money for every pound of council tax they pay, and to that end we will work hard to minimise waste, bureaucracy and unnecessary administrative costs.

We will also work to make the Council far more responsive to the needs of local people, not least by fighting for a far more efficient and stream-lined planning system.

## Town centres, local businesses and employment

East Lothian's high streets and town centres - and the small businesses and shops which exist there - are the lifeblood of our communities, and yet a great many are under serious pressure. It would be a tragedy if our town centres were to become lifeless deserts, and we are determined to make sure that does not happen.



**We firmly believe that public services should be kept as local as possible**

**We will also fight any future attempts to downgrade local health facilities**

**We will work hard to minimise waste, bureaucracy and unnecessary administrative costs**

**We will work to make the Council far more responsive to the needs of local people**

Conservatives have a track record of working to help local business in recent years, having worked to secure the Town Centre Regeneration Fund (which allocated funding to Tranent & Dunbar) and the fast-tracking of cuts in business rates for smaller firms. Here in East Lothian, we held a Business Summit in Musselburgh to meet with local business people and hear their views.

Going forward, we are determined to ensure that planning decisions made by the Council are sympathetic to preserving the integrity of our town centres. We would also work to boost new business start ups and improve town centre parking across the county. Such measures could provide an invaluable boost to East Lothian businesses, and thereby lead to greater employment opportunities for local people.

## Transport

The level of transport provision available in the county varies enormously, from excellent in some areas to appalling in others. Most obviously, bus services within East Lothian could be improved significantly, and we would therefore use East Lothian Council's share in Lothian Buses to call for an enhanced network east of Seton Sands/Tranent, where these services presently terminate. East Lothian Conservatives have a strong record in fighting for better bus services, having campaigned hard for the retention of the X29 Port Seton-Edinburgh express.

On rail, we are fully supportive of the need to re-open East Linton station, and would like to see a comprehensive local service operating between Berwick/Dunbar and Edinburgh. We will also work to ensure better car parking at county stations such as Longniddry and Dunbar.

In terms of the local road network -which is maintained by the Council - we will ensure that pot holes are properly repaired and that all local roads are maintained to a very high standard. We will also lobby for improvements to the A1, specifically for the road to be dualled beyond Innerwick and for safety improvements to junctions such as those for Thorntonloch and Oldhamstocks.



**We are determined to ensure that planning decisions made by the Council are sympathetic to preserving the integrity of our town centres**

**We will work to boost new business start ups and improve town centre parking across the county**

**We are fully supportive of the need to re-open East Linton station**

**We will ensure that pot holes are properly repaired and that all local roads are maintained to a very high standard**



# Environment

East Lothian is blessed with beautiful countryside, stunning beaches and a first rate natural environment, which is popular with residents and visitors alike. To ensure that our environment is preserved and enhanced, we will:

- Combat coastal erosion - a serious problem for our county - by lobbying for robust action from national government.
- Support our excellent county farmers, who are the foremost custodians of the landscape which we all enjoy.
- Support tougher planning regulations for wind farms so as to ensure that turbines can only be sited where it is appropriate to do so. We believe there should be a moratorium on wind farms in the countryside around Dunbar where there are already enough turbines.

# Anti-social behaviour

Low level crime and anti-social behaviour continue to blight the quality of life in too many of our communities. We will therefore:

- Lobby for a stronger police presence on the beat in communities across the county.
- Support the retention of the Sheriff Court in Haddington, so as to ensure local crimes are prosecuted locally and quickly.
- Vigorously oppose any plans to shut any of the county's police stations.

# Stronger communities

Ultimately, East Lothian Conservatives understand that it is not the Council which creates strong communities, but rather it is the people who live there and the various voluntary bodies which work tirelessly in many towns and villages. We will therefore work to improve relations between East Lothian Council and the excellent county-wide network of community councils.

**We will ensure that our environment is preserved and enhanced**

**We will lobby for a stronger police presence on the beat in communities across the county**

**We will vigorously oppose any plans to shut any of the county's police stations**

**We will give maximum support to voluntary groups and local civic events**

Promoted and published by ELCUA, Fenton Barns, North Berwick, EH39 5BW  
and printed by DTP Ltd, 2D West Telferton, Edinburgh, EH7 6UL

