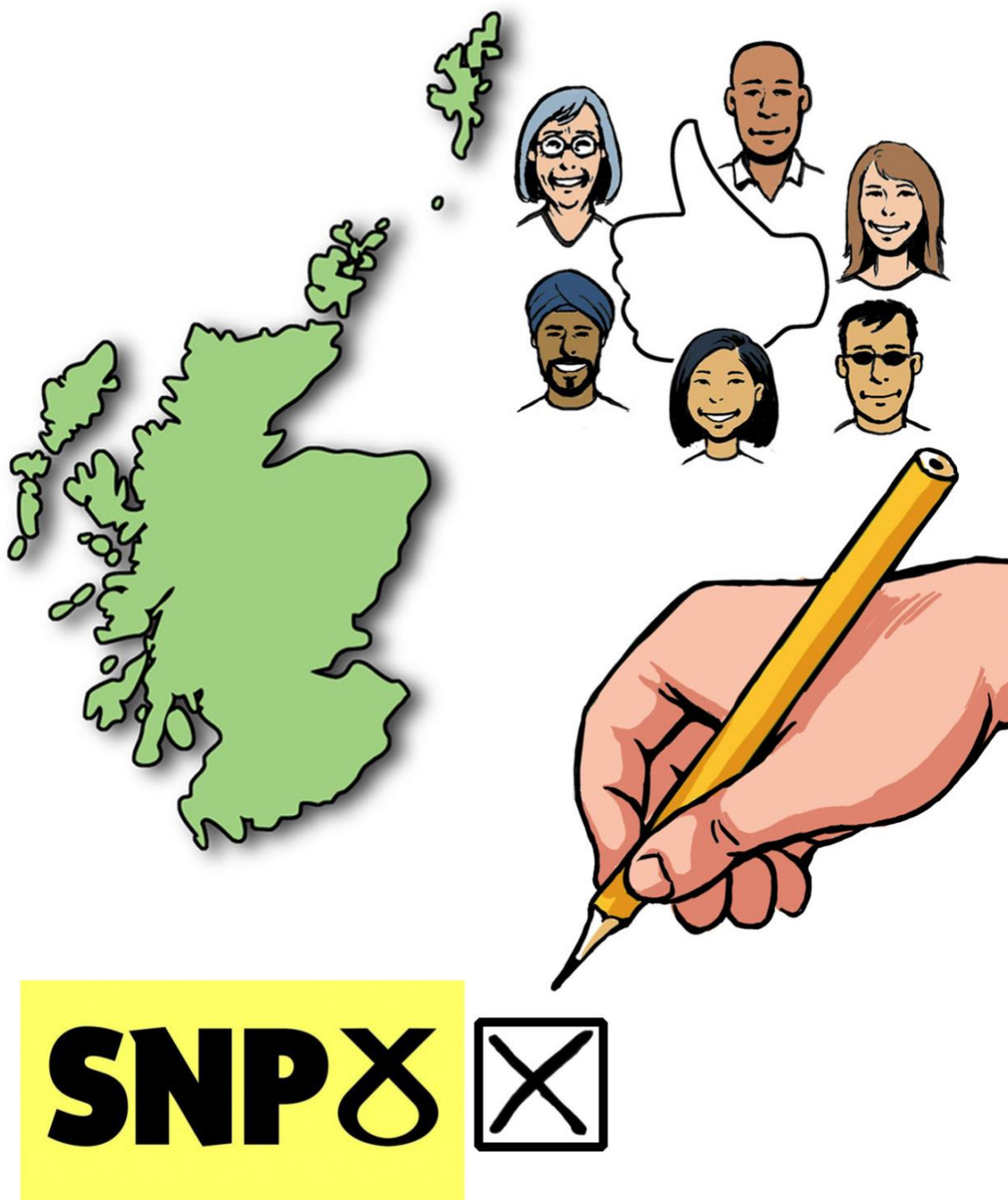


SNP Local Council Manifesto 2022



Easy Read version

Scottish Local Council Elections 2022



We are the Scottish National Party (SNP). This is an Easy Read version of our manifesto for the Local Council elections on May 5th.

Our manifesto tells you the main things we believe in and what we will do if you vote for us.



The last two years have shown us the value of local services and a sense of community.



Families are facing a cost of living crisis. People are struggling to pay for their weekly shopping. People are scared to open their bills.



However we cannot ignore the climate emergency and other long-term challenges we face.



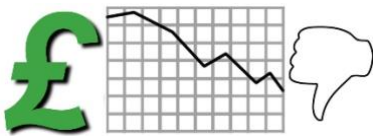
We are still hopeful for Scotland's future. We know what we can achieve by working together with the right leadership.



Councils played a key role in Scotland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be central to tackling the cost of living crisis. Every SNP councillor elected will have this as their top priority.



At all levels of government, the SNP will never stop working to support people and families. Thanks to the SNP, average council tax bills are lower in Scotland than in England.



This crisis has happened due to many years of bad decisions made by the UK Government. They have lowered living standards and cut public spending.



In this election, please use your vote carefully. Let the UK Government know that Scotland is against their strict plans on public spending.



Scotland now has had more of a say in how our country is run. We have new powers which the SNP fought for.

~~PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE
PAYMENT~~
**ADULT DISABILITY
PAYMENT**

We have made decisions on issues like social security. We protect people from some of the worst Tory policies.



We could do even more to help people if we had independence. In the meantime, the SNP will do everything we can to help you in these tough times.



Scotland must demand the UK Government takes action on the cost of living crisis. There needs to be real support for families and communities.



That is the clear choice facing the people of Scotland on 5th May.

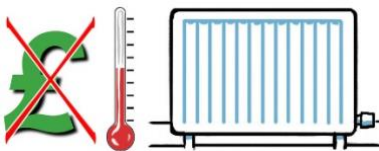
Vote SNP on May 5th.

Our Promises

SNP councils and councillors will:



- Take action to ease the cost of living and help those on the lowest incomes



- Take action to tackle fuel poverty and make it more affordable to heat homes



- Support recovery from COVID



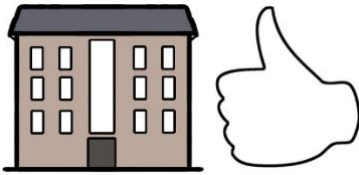
- Build a childcare system that gives care before and after school. Those on the lowest incomes will not pay.



- Employ more teachers and classroom assistants.



- Work with the Scottish Government to build a National Care Service. This will give people better health and social care. We will also increase our social care funding.



- Make more affordable homes.



- Give more access to sporting, leisure and cultural opportunities. Especially for children and young people from low-income backgrounds.



- Make more land available for community gardens. This is all part of making Scotland a Good Food Nation.



- Make more walking and cycling routes in local areas.

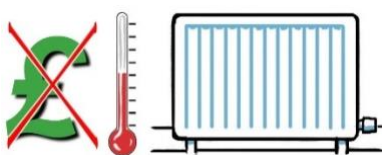


- Give the people of Scotland the chance to choose the country's future. We will hold an independence referendum. in the first half of this parliament term

Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis



The impact of the Tory cost of living crisis is far and wide. It has the biggest impact on the poorest in society.



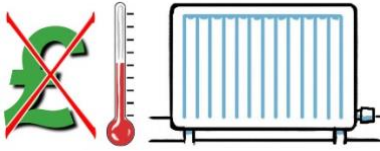
Everyone needs a safe, warm place to call home. But rising energy prices are making it more difficult for people to heat their homes. People struggling with energy bills need to get information and support.



The UK Government is not doing enough to stop fuel poverty. The SNP has helped families facing the cost of living crisis.



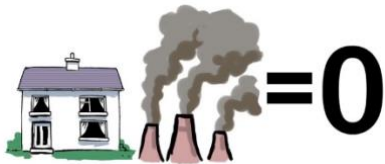
The SNP introduced The Scottish Child Payment. It gives support to low-income families. This has been doubled to £20 a week. It will rise again to £25 by the end of year.



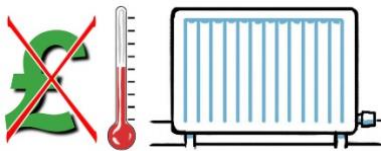
We have just increased 8 benefits to help with rising costs. Next winter we will introduce our new Low Income Winter Heating Assistance payment.



SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to improve the energy efficiency of homes and buildings. This will tackle fuel poverty by making it more affordable to heat and power homes.



This will be part of our goal to have zero emissions from buildings. Zero emissions means that no harmful gases are put into the atmosphere.



The UK Government still has control of most energy matters. However SNP councils will back the Scottish Government's calls for action to support households. This will include lower household energy bills and more support for those on low incomes.



The SNP Government recently announced a payment for every household that gets Council Tax Reduction and some other households.



Scottish council tax is less than in parts of England and Wales. SNP councils will work to keep council tax bills as low as possible, while protecting services.



The SNP will get rid of council tax for everyone under 22.

COVID Recovery



COVID has had a major impact on all our lives, and public services and the country's money. This has made many inequalities worse.



The goal of SNP councils is to find a fair and lasting recovery from the COVID pandemic.

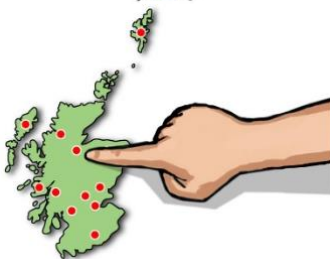
That means:



- A people-centred recovery of public services. This will be decided by local need.



- Rebuilding with good jobs, fair work, and equal access to opportunities.



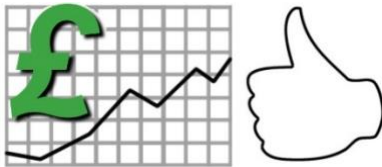
- Supporting communities to tackle poverty, inequality and social isolation.



- Healthier and linked places. They will have cleaner air and warmer homes.



Throughout the pandemic, the SNP has continued to support businesses as much as possible. At this election, we promise to keep the Small Business Bonus. Many businesses will pay no rates.



SNP councils will continue to support local businesses in their recovery from the pandemic.

Children and Families



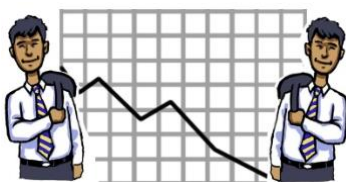
Our goal is to give all children the best start in life. We want to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up.



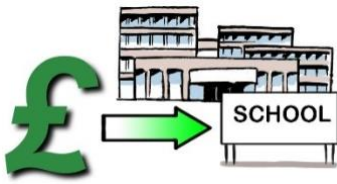
Children already get around 30 hours a week of free early learning and childcare (ELC) during term time each year. This helps give children the best start in life.



We will now build on this. SNP councils will set up a service that gives care before and after school, all year round. Those on the lowest incomes will not pay. The cost for others will be affordable. SNP councils will expand free education to all 1 and 2 year olds.



Children from the low-income families do worse at school than children from other families. We call this the attainment gap.



We will keep working to close the attainment gap and help everyone to do better. SNP councils will give power and money to schools. Teachers, parents and communities can make the best decisions.



There are now more teachers in Scottish schools than at any time since 2008.



SNP councils will work to give better learning to those with additional support needs.



The 2020 Care Review delivered a powerful simple message: care must be about loving and nurturing. SNP councils will help to give children and families what they need. We will make sure that children in care are loved and supported to reach their potential.



The SNP is taking steps to put cash in the pockets of families.



Councils and the SNP government need to work together. To make better job opportunities for parents, better social security support, and reduce household costs.



SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to:



- Improve employment services to support parents to find and keep good jobs.
- Increase the Scottish Child Payment. It will be extended to under 16s in low-income families.



- Set up a new Parental Transition Fund. This will tackle the financial barriers parents face when entering work.



- Do what we can about the UK Government's Benefit Cap.



All children in primaries 1 to 5 can now get free school meals. SNP councils will extend free school meals to pupils in primaries 6 and 7.



We will roll out free school breakfasts, all year round, to pupils in primary and special schools. We will also look at giving free breakfasts in secondary schools.



SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to deliver the school clothing grant.



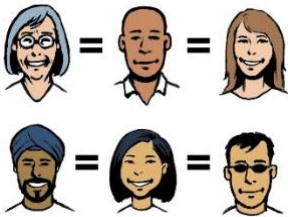
SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to give every child in Scotland an electronic device, free internet connection and the support to use it.



The Scottish Government has funded free music lessons. To support this, SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to make music a core subject.



Children can take the subjects they want without families having to meet costs.



Equality and human rights are important in education. SNP councils will work to deliver inclusive Education in schools. This includes different sexualities, gender and anti-racism.



SNP councils will support Gaelic Education. There should be better access to the language.



Play is important to children's health and well-being. SNP Councils will work with the Scottish Government to renew play parks. All children have access good outdoor play in their community.

Living Healthier



COVID has had a serious impact on our health and quality of life. We want to see health care provided in local communities and closer to people's homes.



Social care services are important. We value the work of paid and unpaid carers.



SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to set up a new National Care Service. This will improve care and support for people.



The National Care Service will be co-designed with the people who use and rely on these services. It will improve standards, have better conditions for workers and give better support for unpaid carers.



We believe social care services should be free for all. SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to remove charges for care.



Mental health is very important. To raise awareness, we will offer mental health training to everyone in the public sector.



SNP councils will have mental health plans. They will work with other parts of government so that we are all giving the same services.



We do what we can to make sure there are more quality green spaces in our local areas. These will be kept clean, safe and accessible.

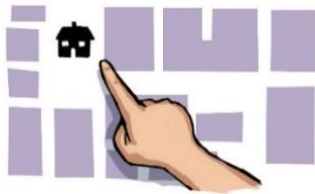


SNP Councils will increase access to sporting, leisure and cultural opportunities in communities. This is especially for children and young people from low-income backgrounds.

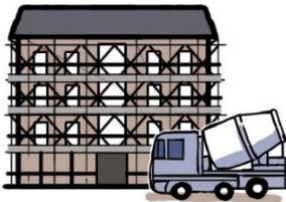
Our communities



The communities we live in will be central to many of the changes needed to reach our targets.



Everyone should have a safe, warm, affordable home in the community they want to live in. SNP Councils are committed to building more affordable and social housing.



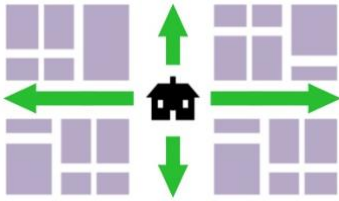
SNP councils will work with the Scottish government to make more affordable homes.



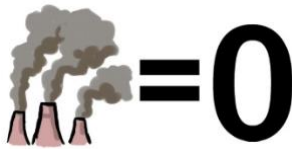
SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government and voluntary organisations to reduce homelessness.



To reduce homelessness we need to stop it from happening. When someone is at risk of homelessness, we need to help as soon as possible.



SNP Councils will work with the Scottish Government to have 20-minute neighbourhoods. These are accessible places where people can get what they need within a 20 minute walk.



These would let us live better, healthier lives. It will support the transition to zero emissions.



SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to increase the amount of housing in town centres and high streets..



SNP councils to support town and city centres.



We will work with the Scottish Government to help local shops change and be successful.



Libraries are an important part of local communities. Everyone should have access. They help to give people a love of books and reading. They support mental health and tackle social isolation. They give people access to the internet and computers. We will have funding to help libraries stay open



During the pandemic, voluntary organisations gave important support to people, communities and society.



We know that the third sector needs funding to continue its work. SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to deliver funding.



Social Enterprises are important. A Social Enterprise is a business with goals to help society or the environment. SNP councils will back a Social Enterprise Action Plan.



We want Scotland to be a welcoming and safe place for those seeking refuge and asylum.



Scotland offers to provide a safe place for Ukrainians. This is part of the UK Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme



The right to food is important. We want to make the right to food the law.



SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to support Scottish produce. This will support local jobs and businesses.



We will make more land available for community gardens. These will bring fresh, affordable food closer to where people live and work, especially in deprived communities.



Scotland has lots of good food. But we do not always eat well and obesity is a problem.



Change starts with our children. We provide healthy free school meals. We will also support projects to promote healthier eating through our schools.



It is now more important than ever to support businesses which are at the heart of communities. SNP councils will continue to encourage people to shop, eat and drink locally. This will help support jobs and town centres.



Culture is central to who we are as a nation. The pandemic has shown more than ever how important it is to our wellbeing, mental health and sense of belonging.



Everyone should be able to take part in culture in their local area. SNP councils will protect our cultural by giving free access to our National Galleries and Museums.



SNP Councils will give more access to sport, leisure and cultural opportunities in local communities. This is especially for children and young people from low-income backgrounds.



SNP councils will support inclusion and tackle racism.



SNP councils will agree that Islamophobia is a kind of racism that targets Muslims or Muslimness. SNP councils will agree that antisemitism is a kind of racism that targets jews.

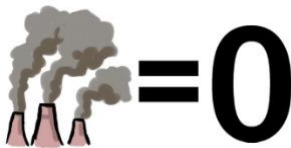


SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to make sure every child who needs it has access to a Bairns' Hoose. This is a child-friendly place for care and recovery for children who have experienced abuse.

Net Zero Goals



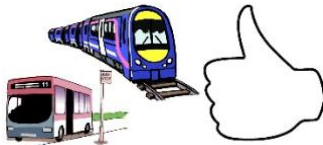
As part of our plans to become a net zero nation we will change transport across. We are committed to a net zero future in a way that is fair for everyone.



Net zero means that no harmful gases are put into the atmosphere.



There has been an increase in cycling and walking. SNP councils will make more walking and cycling routes in local areas.



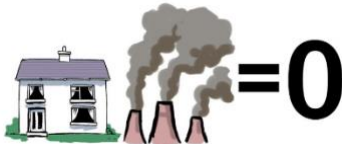
SNP councils will make plans on how our local areas can have fewer cars on their roads. We will encourage people to use the bus, trains, and walk and cycle more.



We will provide free bikes for all children of school age who cannot afford them. This will help children to build life skills, confidence and independence.



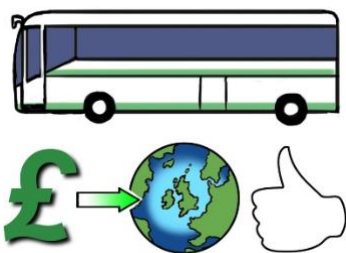
Decarbonising homes is a big part of the fight against climate change. Decarbonising means stopping the use of fuels which do harm to the environment. Climate change is when there are long-term changes in the temperature and weather which are harmful for people and the environment.



SNP councils will work closely with the Scottish Government to decarbonise the heating homes and all public buildings.



Under 22s living in Scotland can now have free bus travel. This will help give many young people better access to opportunities. SNP councils will make sure that every child or young person can get their free bus pass quickly and easily.

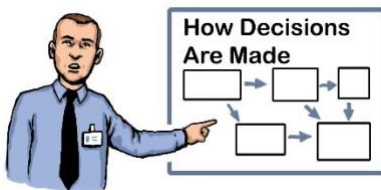


The SNP will continue to support councils and bus companies to tackle lower passenger numbers. We will keep bus services and expand. We will make sure local bus companies are getting funding to be eco-friendly.

Local Governance



Governance means checking that an organisation is doing the right things in the right way. Throughout the pandemic, we have seen how important it is for national and local government to work together.



The Scottish Government had a Local Governance Review. This will look at how local decisions are made.



When this Review is completed, SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government to give councils and local communities more power over decisions that affect them.



SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government and other organisations on a Community law. The law will mean councils will spend money in local communities.

Scotland's Choice



The people of Scotland have the right to decide our own future.



We believe the people of Scotland should decide if Scotland should be an independent country.



Independence gives the chance to do things that meet Scotland's needs. We can make choices to suit Scotland's interests. Independence will give Scotland the powers we need.



SNP councils will support the Scottish Government's plan to hold a referendum on independence.