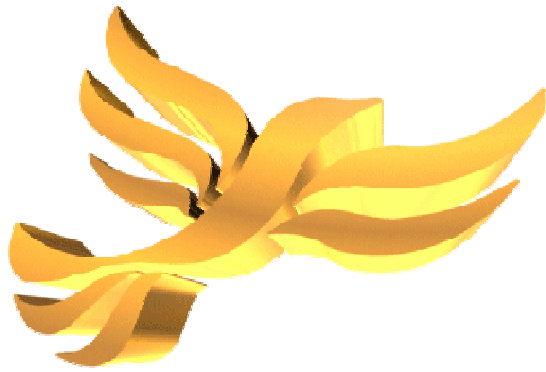


*Dundee's Liberal
Democrats - working
positively for our City*



**The Dundee Liberal Democrat
City Council election Manifesto 2007**



Dundee Liberal Democrats - working positively for Dundee's future

The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

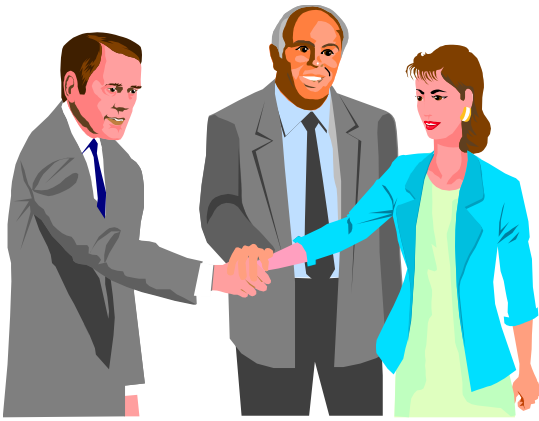
The people of Dundee elected two Liberal Democrat councillors in 2003 and they have worked positively with others to provide a stable and competent administration on the City Council, which has achieved much for the City in the past four years. Many of these achievements are summarised in the document, "Administration Review : Three Years On", produced in 2006.

It is significant that, under a Liberal Democrat Convener of Finance, the City Council has frozen its Council Tax level in 2007 - Dundee has had consistently lower than average Council Tax increases during the current administration than in previous ones and well below the Scottish average.

Nationally, Liberal Democrats are responsible for achieving the change in the electoral system which means that the council elections on 3rd May 2007 will be held under a system of proportional representation (Single Transferable Vote) for the first time. Dundee, already used to partnership administration, is well placed to react positively to the new electoral system which results in the need for politicians of different political persuasions to work together for the good of our City. That is a good thing.

We are confident that there will be much increased Liberal Democrat Group on Dundee City Council on 4th May. Residents across the City are reacting positively and enthusiastically to the campaigns of local Liberal Democrats, who will provide hard-working councillors, fighting for their local communities.

Liberal Democrat councillors pledge above all to work positively for Dundee - the people of our City expect nothing less.



Improving our City Council

The Scottish Executive has initiated wide ranging discussions about the future of local government, in the context of wider public sector reform. Liberal Democrats believe that the future of public services is due for reform, but we believe in the ability of each local authority to deliver responsive services. We would wish to ensure that any reform of public services maintains and enhances local government's competence and reputation.

We therefore believe that any reform of local government should be seen in the context of wider public sector reform. Nonetheless, we reiterate our concern about Dundee's constrained boundary, caused by a gerrymandered Tory local government reorganisation in 1996.

The Liberal Democrats want to allow locally elected politicians the opportunity to decide what is best for their area, in a clear commitment to the principle of subsidiary.

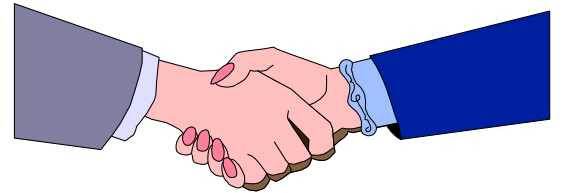
Within Dundee City Council, we have become convinced that the current committee structure requires reform. The City Council needs efficient and transparent decision-making, together with a strong scrutiny function.

The Dundee Liberal Democrat Group will look at developing more efficient practices in the delivery of services in order to secure the best deal for the electorate it serves. Therefore we propose that Dundee City Council:

- Still has too many departments (despite moves in the right direction) and there should be further departmental amalgamation, to provide great quality services in a streamlined and efficient way. This is within the context of improving services and protecting jobs.
- Has an outdated and inefficient committee system. This should be replaced within 12 months of the 2007 elections with a cabinet structure, to allow for a more modern, efficient decision making structure, with high quality scrutiny.

In advance of the new structure being introduced on 1st May 2008, the current committee structure should be reduced in size - the Leisure & Arts and Communities Committees should be combined; as should Social Work and Housing; as should Finance and Policy & Resources. Other committee amalgamations should be considered during the transition year.

ENHANCING COMMUNITY PLANNING, CREATING JOBS AND BUILDING STRONG LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Community Planning, introduced as a statutory duty for local authorities, in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, provides an excellent means of integrating disparate public agencies and adding value for our communities in implementing an improved community plan.

We are highly supportive of the Dundee Partnership and see its continuing role as crucial to Dundee's future and improving economic development and community infrastructure.

We further believe Dundee's Community Regeneration Forums have made a huge contribution to community improvements. Scottish Liberal Democrats believe fundamentally that power must be returned to local people and local communities in order to ensure the sustainability of our communities in the longer term. We believe in community participation in decision-making, a step further than consultation with communities.

The Liberal Democrats propose that the effectiveness and productiveness of current interfaces between the Council and local communities be reviewed to take account of the successes of CRFs and also to recognise the need to discuss with communities the boundaries of community representative structures, including community councils, given the new STV wards.

It makes sense that local community groups, wards and council officers' areas of geographic responsibility fit well together, but we equally recognise the need for real interaction with local citizens and that one size does not fit all.,

The Liberal Democrats are a party of enterprise in Scotland. Dundee LibDem councillors will seek to continue the work with the Scottish Enterprise Tayside to increase the number of business start ups in areas such as life sciences, tourism, electronic and digital media, health care and construction. This is vitally important given the job losses announced in past months in the City.

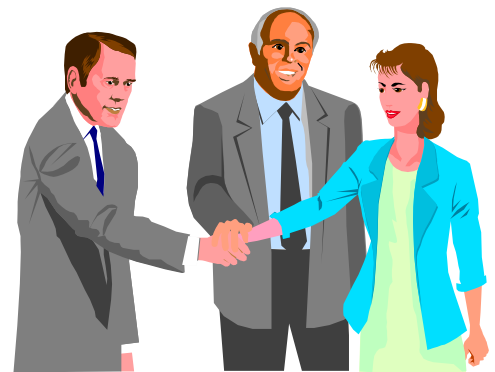
We will look to continuing to develop sustainable district shopping centres and to seek to establish community initiatives, with public and private sector partners to further improve them.

We are strongly supportive of improved youth facilities and also in the provision of specific community facilities for elderly citizens. The City Council should actively look at improving community facilities in communities where neighbourhood centres do not yet exist. Development of Youth Cafes or additional youth facilities where these already exist will be a priority for Liberal Democrat councillors.

Liberal Democrats remain strongly supportive of close co-operation with local organisations working towards social inclusion, such as the Dundee Anti Poverty Forum.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCRUTINISING THE COUNCIL'S WORK

- As part of a revised and modernised decision-making structure, we believe an Audit & Scrutiny Panel should be established, with responsibility of scrutinising, monitoring and reviewing the work of the Council.



There is a role for councillors at community level in accountability. Our councillors believe in :

- Keeping in touch with our communities through regular local newsletters. The work of Dundee Liberal Democrat councillors will also be posted electronically to further aid transparency and accountability. Dundee's Liberal Democrat Group Leader is the only City Councillor to update residents through an on-line blog, in addition to his website.

- We believe in effectively publicising ward surgeries.

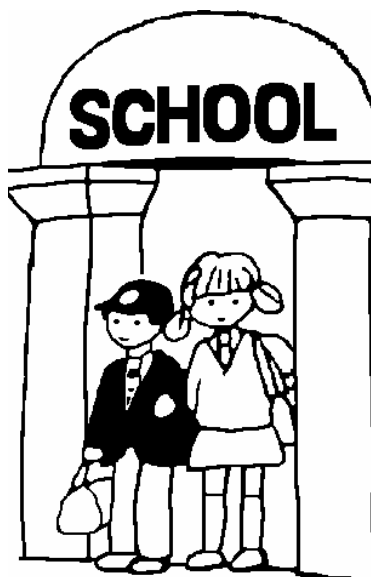
Council Tax

Under a Liberal Democrat Finance Convener, Dundee City Council has had record low council tax increases - with no Council Tax increase at all for 2007/8. Liberal Democrat councillors will continue to insist on minimal council tax increases, without compromising service provision in the City.



We will continue to work hard to improve Dundee's Council Tax collection rate. The situation in terms of in-year collection is much improved but more has to be done.

We will continue to encourage the participation of the Dundee public in terms of consultation, prior to setting budgets and Council Tax levels. We will require all departments of the council to produce a brief summary of their required budget, with a clear explanation of how much money is needed and where it will be spent.



Making Dundee's education service second to none

Liberal Democrats believe that investment in education is the most important function of local government.

We believe that all steps to continue to improve the educational attainment of Dundee's young people are of vital importance. We strongly believe, however, that the education of Dundee's children should never be the subject of "political footballs" and believe that the City Council has taken the right steps to secure a positive future for Dundee's

children. For example, "Learning Together in Dundee" has the makings of real success and is a credit to the education service.

We are lucky to have dedicated and highly professional teaching staff right across Dundee and we believe all should be done to support our teaching and support staff.

The City Council's schools rebuilding and improvement programme has already seen real results - at St John's High School and Forthill Primary School. The new schools and improved school buildings, coming on stream early in the life of the new administration, will be equally impressive.

- The new administration must give serious consideration to the next generation of school building and facilities improvements. We are committed to securing the maximum possible additional investment in all aspects of educational provision, within the means of the City Council. In terms of a further programme of school improvements, if a Public Private Partnership is the only viable option, there is merit in again exploring Joint Venture proposals as an alternative to the traditional PPP model.
- We wish to see maximum involvement of parents and guardians in the life of our schools - and parental consultation is paramount.
- We wish to encourage diversity in pupils' choices at school - especially encouraging second languages and music.
- Dundee City Council schools have an excellent record in the provision of healthy eating for pupils. We will strongly promote this in future years.
- Making available work experience placements for all fourth year pupils.
- We will continue to seek to improve provision of before and after school activities including schools' breakfast clubs.
- Through the education system, it is vital young people are informed of the dangers of substance abuse, drugs and alcohol.

Dundee's Housing Service

Dundee Liberal Democrats strongly support the provision of affordable social housing.



- The City Council should work closely with other social housing providers and other agencies such as Communities Scotland registered social landlords and the private sector, to increase the range of affordable housing.
- Dundee Liberal Democrats were opposed to the large scale stock transfer of the City Council's housing stock and are pleased that the Council is retaining its stock, with the support of our tenants. We will strive to ensure that the Scottish Housing Quality Standard is achieved for all the Council's retained stock by 2015.
- We shall continue to encourage local tenant and resident groups in the management of their own properties and neighbourhoods, and will work in partnership with Dundee Federation of Tenants' Associations to achieve this.
- We wish to encourage further development of housing in the City Centre. We want to support a vibrant residential community in the City Centre.
- We continue to support the "Care and Repair" scheme to help elderly and disabled people keep their homes in good repair.
- Another priority for the housing department is to ensure that empty Council Houses are re-let without delay. It should also make efforts to press owners to bring unoccupied housing back into use.
- We are concerned about the quality of some privately rented housing. We strongly support moves towards compulsory factoring to improve the quality of life for citizens in Dundee's tenemental properties.
- Dundee's LibDem councillors have strongly supported a limit on HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) in the central part of Dundee for both planning and licensing purposes, limited to 12.5% of all housing. This should be vigorously enforced. The limit should be reviewed within the first year of the new administration and reduced to 10% or lower if necessary.

The City's Social Work Services

Liberal Democrats continue to see a key function of Dundee's Social Work Services to be provision of quality services for our elderly people, the disabled, families, and children.



We acknowledge great work being done by the staff in the City Council's Social Work Department, and believe that retaining quality professional staff must be a key priority of the Social Work Department directorate.

- The City Council should actively review and look to continually improve its services for older people.
- Young people often feel isolated from their communities through lack of things to do and lack of opportunities to influence what is provided for them. The City Council must work with young people to develop a range of facilities and services to meet their needs, including an expansion of outreach work.
- The City Council should actively encourage the provision of free-to-use ATMs in the City.
- We will continue to support the Garden Maintenance Scheme for elderly and infirm people - and explore ways the service can be improved.
- We will encourage winter warm campaigns to combat problems of hypothermia for the elderly and citizens on low incomes.

Arts & Leisure in Dundee



The City Council has a key role to develop leisure and arts facilities in Dundee, and work with leisure and arts organisations in the City.

Dundee's LibDem councillors strongly supported the creation of Dundee Leisure, to drive forward leisure facilities in Dundee. We think this model should be considered, where appropriate, for other leisure and similar services.

We shall offer to facilitate and co-ordinate bids by local communities for financial support for sports, recreation and arts projects from

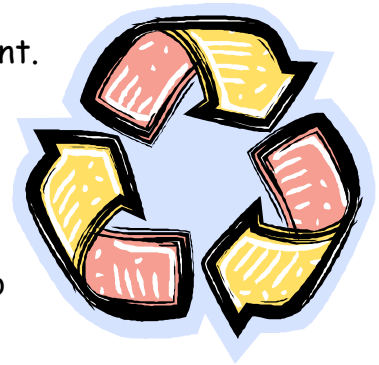
various funding bodies such as the National Lottery.

- The Council should take greater steps to market the availability of neighbourhood libraries to local citizens. We will undertake a library-use initiative by running a publicity campaign to send out a free library card to each named council taxpayer along with a leaflet about the library service.
- The lines of parks' and playparks' maintenance responsibilities between the Leisure & Communities Department and Dundee Contract Services are blurred and must be reviewed within the first year of the new administration.
- We should strongly promote community use of school facilities and other Council-owned facilities. The newly improved schools must provide good community access.

Protecting Dundee's environment

Dundee Liberal Democrats are committed to the environment. Seeking to promote sustainable communities is an essential policy of the Liberal Democrats.

Where Liberal Democrat councillors are in a position to influence matters in the council chamber they seek to promote green policies and carry out environmental audits.



- We will seek to target council resources towards effective graffiti removal, combating dog fouling and promoting anti-vandalism messages in our schools.
- There should be a graffiti-specific additional Rapid Response Team.
- Enhance Litter Warden Services and strengthen enforcement, where possible.
- We will continue to strongly support Dundee Sun City.
- Seek to improve environmental awareness in our schools and encourage eco schools within the City.
- We will deliver a sustained campaign to tackle illegal fly-tipping in the City. We would seek to give greater resources to the prosecution of 'fly-tippers', with good lines of communication with SEPA, and publicity in the City for this initiative.
- We will continue to develop the network of local waste and recycling centres and increase the diversity of these (eg to include aluminium and plastics where possible)

and not already provided). We strongly support the proposed multi-occupancy recycling scheme to be introduced in 2007/8.

- Liberal Democrats will also support the provision of more litter bins, and seek commercial sponsorship of these.
- We support publicised maximum response times for public enquiries on graffiti, dog dirt and fly tipping.
- Graffiti is an increasing problem in many areas of Dundee. Liberal Democrats call for a 'no tolerance' policy towards vandalism and graffiti. More investment in the Council's Rapid Response Unit to create a graffiti-tackling specific RRT will allow the Council to swiftly and persistently remove new Graffiti.
- We wish to see resources targeted to address problems of dog dirt and street litter. We propose a policy of placing posters in areas where there is a persistent problem with dogs - a "shame with no name" campaign against irresponsible owners. We will enhance the Dog Warden Service and provide more dog waste bins and signage.
- We strongly support efficient refuse collections and recognise that many residents welcome the extension of Wheelie Bin rounds. We recognise that there will be areas where the traditional bin collection will continue where residents wish this and/or wheelie collections are not practical.
- Liberal Democrats are gravely concerned about the dangers posed by irresponsible use of fireworks. We believe the City Council should continue to actively campaign against such irresponsible use.
- We support the extension of CCTV facilities in the City and increased availability of mobile CCTV units.
- The Council should strongly support action on derelict & neglected buildings.
- The roads and pavements in Dundee need a speedier and more effective system of maintenance and repair than exists at the moment. Additionally, we specifically propose an increase in capital expenditure of £300 000 per annum (for the lifetime of the 2007-11 administration) for the Unadopted Footways Programme. The criteria for priority within the programme list should be reviewed to ensure the

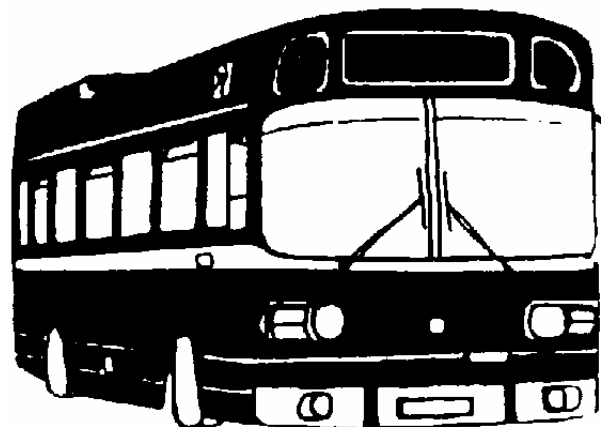
worst, most used pavements are adopted without delay and that the concerns of elderly citizens and those with mobility difficulties are addressed.

- More effective traffic calming measures should be introduced to reduce the "Rat Runs" where local demand from residents merits it. In particular we will actively promote the introduction of "Home Zones" in streets where a lower speed limit than 30mph would prove effective.
- We shall invest in better street lighting where public safety is of concern. Further capital investment in street lighting (and white lights) is vital.
- We see improvements to the Winter Maintenance programme as a priority.

Planning and Transport in the City

Dundee has a good bus network. It is well co-ordinated in terms of the services and routes available due mostly to the fact that the natural monopoly of the main provider in the town has not been broken.

However, the Liberal Democrats acknowledge the fact that mainstream public transport is not suitable for everyone. We will actively seek out new initiatives to plug these gaps and encourage the development of not-for-profit community transport operators where appropriate.



- Liberal Democrats support an effective and co-ordinated bus and rail network in the City.
- We support consultation with communities on ways of improving parking problems in parts of the City, particularly those areas adjacent to the City Centre. This will include consultation on residents' priority parking schemes, their advantages and disadvantages for local communities.
- We support improved facilities for our City's many cyclists.

- Work with the regional transport partnership (TACTRAN) to promote a new outer ring road to improve the traffic situation in Dundee and ease pressure on the Kingsway.

The City Council and its staff

Liberal Democrats believe that the professionalism & experience of the City Council's staff is vital to City's success. We shall continually consider ways to ensure we retain quality staff within the City Council.

For example, we shall encourage the development of opportunities for tele-working and home-working. Staff are the Council's most valuable asset, and we see occupational health facilities, and assisting staff with childcare and other caring responsibilities as vital.



- We shall promote a suggestion scheme for staff and the public with genuine rewards for money-saving ideas.
- Liberal Democrats continue to support active participation of Dundee City Council in CoSLA.
- We wish to see the launch of an improved and modernised Dundee City Council website as a matter of immediate priority.
- We will review the priorities and budget for civic hospitality. Whilst being aware of the need to promote the city, we must also be mindful of the cost to the Council Tax Payer.
- We will ensure all Council forms are in plain English, and that versions in other languages of Dundee citizens are available.

Economic Development, employment and planning

Liberal Democrats believe that Dundee City Council must play a significant part in addressing local unemployment problems and creating a climate for local businesses to thrive and grow.

We believe that our Economic Development Department should promote Dundee widely, to encourage inward investment, and work with local industries, educational,

training and research establishments, to promote economic development in Dundee and maximise local job opportunities. This is particularly vital given the recent jobs losses in the City.

- Liberal Democrats will continue to actively campaign to bring further Civil service jobs to the City.
- We want to encourage more small-scale local employers to tender for services required by Dundee City Council.
- We shall encourage environmentally friendly policies, such as energy conservation and solar power in planning applications. All major planning and development proposals must be subject to an environmental impact assessment.
- We shall seek contributions from developers towards infrastructure costs and community facilities in all major planning applications.
- We also support moves to bring local enterprise organisations (such as Scottish Enterprise Tayside) back into local control so that performance and expenditure can be made locally accountable.