

Council elections 2022 – Liberal Democrats publish their manifesto offering new hope

Scottish Liberal Democrats launched their manifesto on Wednesday morning on top of Calton Hill.

The 10-page document includes plans that the party says will ensure that every household benefits from a Cost of Living Rescue Package providing new hope to everyone worried about the crisis.



Liberal Democrat photo call on Calton Hill with some local

candidates and Alex Cole Hamilton PHOTO ©2022 The Edinburgh Reporter

The Liberal Democrat leader [@agcolemilton](https://twitter.com/agcolemilton) explained the outline of the local government manifesto which 21 LibDem candidates will use to fight the 2022 election pic.twitter.com/gY04aaugw9

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [April 13, 2022](#)

The Scottish Liberal Democrat Cost of Living Rescue Package includes:

- A VAT cut worth £600 to the average household
- A Robin Hood Tax on the energy companies making super profits from the cost of living crisis
- An emergency nationwide home insulation programme
- Doubling and expanding the Winter Fuel Payment and Warm Home Discount
- The reversal of the SNP/Green rail fare hike and introduction of railcard discounts for everyone to knock at least a third off fares

And the manifesto includes:

- Stopping the takeover of social care by the same SNP ministers who put Covid-positive into care homes, instead moving immediately to strike a transformative pay deal for staff and establishing new national standards for care users.
- New health staff in every GP practice to boost early diagnosis and bring down waits for help across the country.
- The rollout of hundreds more counsellors in schools and ramping up of training so every workplace can get the benefit of a mental health first aider
- Long Covid clinics in every region and in-home nurse support for sufferers.

- A comprehensive new education recovery plan because parents and teachers are struggling to see any difference in what's on offer in our schools
- Tackle the chronically poor condition of local roads to make them safer for walking, wheeling, cycling and driving.
- The protection of council budgets after repeated cuts at the hands of SNP/Green deals which have taken a toll on everything from schools to street cleaning.




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At the launch Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP said: “We’ve hardly managed to catch our breath from the pandemic before the cost of living crisis has people worried sick. After everything we’ve been through, Scotland needs new hope.

“Let’s lay aside talk of an independence referendum and get to grips with what matters right now.

“From the Downing Street parties during lockdown to the ferries farce, people feel taken for granted by the Tories and SNP. At the worst possible moment they are both hiking up taxes, from national insurance to your train fares and council tax. They are exposing households when they should be insulating them.

“Instead we need a cross-government Cost of Living Rescue Package. It means the reversal of those SNP-Tory tax hikes, a cut to VAT worth £600, an emergency nationwide insulation programme to cut energy bills and a Robin Hood Tax on the super profits of those energy companies making billions from this crisis.

“Scottish Liberal Democrat councillors and candidates are local champions. You see them all year round – not just at election time. We see the best in people and want the best for them. That’s what you get when you vote for the Scottish Liberal Democrats on 5 May.”

Edinburgh candidates

Jack Caldwell profile [here](#).

Neil Ross profile [here](#).

Liberal Democrats are fielding 22 candidates in 17 wards in Edinburgh:

Almond	Kevin Lang
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Almond	Louise Young
Almond	Lewis Younie
City Centre	Andy Foxall
Colinton/Fairmilehead	Louise Spence
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	Alan Beal
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	Euan Davidson
Craightinny/Duddingston	Elaine Ford
Drum Brae/Gyle	Ed Thornley
Drum Brae/Gyle	Robert Aldridge
Forth	Sanne Dijkstra-Downie
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	Fraser Graham
Inverleith	Malcolm Wood
Inverleith	Hal Osler
Leith	Robin Rea
Leith Walk	Jack Caldwell
Liberton/Gilmerton	Madeleine Planche
Morningside	Neil Ross
Portobello/Craigmillar	Jill Reilly
Southside/Newington	Pauline Flannery
Pentland Hills	Michael Chappell
Sighthill/Gorgie	Devin Scobie



Lewis Younie



Sanne Dijkstra-Downie



Alan Beal



Andy Foxall



Elaine Ford



Neil Ross



Hal Osler



Malcolm Wood