

# **Building East Lothian's Future Together**

East Lothian Labour Manifesto 2022





## Introduction from Cllr Norman Hampshire

In May 2017 the people of East Lothian voted to return Labour as the biggest group on East Lothian Council. The Council Leader at that time, Cllr Willie Innes, proposed to form a minority administration to lead the Council. This was approved by the full Council and the minority Labour Group have for the last five years led one of Scotland's most successful councils.

The last five years have been extremely difficult for the administration due to the Scottish Government's savage cuts to our core funding, as well as the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and the growing cost of living crisis. Despite being one of the fastest growing Councils in Scotland we receive no support for that growth. Our Leader Cllr Innes also had to take time off work to get treatment for cancer. He continued to operate as the Council Leader until October 2021 when he finally lost his fight with this horrible illness.

As the Council's Depute Leader, I had been the Acting Leader when Cllr Innes was off work. He always made himself available to answer questions and provide support when I required it. However, the Council have now given me their support to become the Council Leader and I am honoured to take on this extremely important position on East Lothian Council.

I am acutely aware of the damage that was done by the SNP-led administration between 2007 and 2012 which squandered our reserves and committed the Council to an unsustainable capital programme leaving us with the highest debt per head of population of any authority in Scotland. I can assure the people of East Lothian that I will continue to look after the Council's finances and their services so East Lothian will continue to be one of Scotland's best performing councils. Our financial management of the Council finances have been endorsed by Audit Scotland in their most recent report.

The pressure on the Council's budget is growing every year as the SNP/Green Coalition Government continues to cut the Council's core budget and impose further service commitments on local government. However, despite this, the Labour Administration has invested in new technology and new ways of working that has delivered significant savings and protected the vital services that our communities need.

My commitment to the people of East Lothian is that I will take the tough decisions to ensure we continue to operate strong fiscal management, protect your local services and implement measures to help support people and communities through the cost of living crisis.

The Labour Group will always put East Lothian First.

The Labour Group will build East Lothian's future together with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N Hampshire". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'N' being large and stylized.

**Cllr Norman Hampshire**  
**Labour Leader of East Lothian Council**

## Labour – on East Lothian’s side

### Since 2017, Labour-led East Lothian Council has:

- Protected and supported our communities during the pandemic.
- Worked hard to give our town centres and businesses the support they required.
- Protected vital frontline council services despite SNP Government cuts.
- Continued to invest in education, giving our children the best start in life.
- Invested millions in new school buildings and extensions.
- Invested in Care in the Community to keep people in their own homes.
- Been the best performing area in Scotland at reducing delayed hospital discharge.
- Reduced our carbon footprint with the aim to become carbon neutral by 2045.
- Developed plans for a Climate Forest to plant two million trees locally in 10 years.
- Continued to invest in green energy, infrastructure and technology.
- Invested £27 million in road maintenance and improvement.
- Installed the highest number of Electric Vehicle charging points per head in the UK.
- Implemented a recycling system that is one of the UK’s best at delivering high value materials.
- Made good progress on implementing its Equalities Plan.
- Committed significant funds to the delivery of the new railway station in East Linton.
- Developed plans to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- Increased the number of council and other affordable housing for rent locally.
- Seen its 2018 Local Development Plan recognised by the Royal Town Planning Institute for Excellence in Plan Making.

### SNP – Continuing to let East Lothian Down

#### Over the last ten years the SNP have:

- Slashed millions from East Lothian Council’s budget.
- Failed to properly fund the Council Tax freeze.
- Imposed a target of 10,050 new houses in East Lothian with inadequate infrastructure funding.
- Failed to support or delayed local planning and development objectives.
- Delayed the removal of planning restrictions at the former Cockenzie power station site, resulting in a delay in employment opportunities.
- Continued to overturn planning committee decisions on new housing developments opposed by local communities.
- Closed Haddington’s Sheriff and JP Courts, resulting in long court delays and increased costs for East Lothian residents and businesses.
- Delayed the construction of East Lothian Community Hospital by 10 years.
- Failed to end overcrowding, delays and cancellations on local rail services.
- Failed to have any infrastructure investment plan that supports economic growth.
- Tried to impose a Workplace Parking Levy, which Labour will not implement here.

## Education Recovery: Giving our Children the Best Start in Life

Since 2017 Labour-led East Lothian Council has:

- Continued to provide a high-quality educational experience for children.
- Delivered new primary schools in Wallyford and Haddington.
- Started the delivery of Wallyford's state-of-the-art Secondary School & learning campus.
- Overseen continual improvements in exam results.
- Maintained a high level for positive destinations for school-leavers, with East Lothian moving from tenth to seventh best among Scotland's 32 councils of 96.1%.
- Delivered nursery places for all 3 and 4 year olds.
- Increased and maintained teacher numbers.
- Continued to invest in Support from the Start across the county.
- Provided some of the best school sport provision in Scotland.
- Continued to support parental involvement even during the pandemic.
- Launched a pupil tutoring scheme in partnership with Queen Margaret University.
- Introduced Mental Health Youth Workers in all six secondary schools.
- Introduced a "single point of contact" with partner organisations to support children & young people for mental health.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Oppose the centralisation of education & children's services
- Work with teachers, parents and carers to ensure children do not miss out on any important learning opportunities as we recover from the pandemic.
- Work with health professionals, community development staff and communities to make sure that children and young people get the support they need both educationally and for their physical and mental health during the recovery phase.
- Deliver new primary schools in Craighall, Whitecraig, Blindwells and East Linton.
- Invest over £136 million in our school estate and infrastructure, including extensions or upgrades to schools across the county.
- Continue to develop our early years' service to make sure we provide the best start.
- Continue to invest in Support from the Start.
- Continue to improve our support for children with additional support needs.
- Develop the curriculum to meet the needs for every pupil and make sure there is support and a pathway for every child to reach their full potential.
- Build on the success of the Ridge Project to provide young people with Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training in stone masonry, brick laying and joinery.
- At Wallyford Learning Campus work in partnership with British Engineering Services Association (BESA), Edinburgh College, The National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Scottish Rural College to enable access to more than 300 Modern Apprenticeships.
- Continue to work with employers to provide pathways into apprenticeships.
- Continue to invest in IT systems and technology in all our schools.
- Rebuild and develop our breakfast and after school clubs across East Lothian.
- Support activities and lunch clubs during school holidays.
- Continue to deliver the young carers strategy.
- Continue to support the play strategy with partner organisations.

## Economic Recovery: Growing the Local Economy and Creating Jobs

Since 2017 Labour-led East Lothian Council has:

- Continued to implement, review and refresh the Economic Development Strategy.
- Continued to develop the role of East Lothian Works as a 'one stop shop' for jobs, employability and skills development.
- Worked with Visit Scotland and local partners to implement the Tourism Action Plan and increase investment in local tourism and support for major events.
- Secured land next to QMU that will deliver the £26m Food and Drink Innovation Hub and Park along with many food and drink businesses.
- Bought the former Cockenzie Power Station site that has already secured significant investment to support the offshore renewables.
- Campaigned to get changes to the NPF4 to allow more opportunities at Cockenzie.
- Through our Economic Development Team, continued to help our Local Businesses to expand like Gilmour Butchers who are proposing a multi-million pound new factory in Wallyford that will create many new jobs and a training facility.
- Continued to work to secure new investment in our Allocated Employment Land.
- Allocated £600,000 to support local business.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Build and open the Innovation Hub in August 2025 and create many new jobs, by attracting new food and drink companies to the Innovation Park at QMU.
- Support successful businesses like Gilmour Butchers by helping them expand their business, create new jobs and develop training facilities for the workforce.
- Market worldwide our Cockenzie Site to bring new investors to deliver many new employment opportunities.
- Do all we can to secure the future generation of electricity and retain highly skilled jobs at Torness Power Station.
- Work with energy companies to ensure as many jobs as possible come to East Lothian via the development of the world's biggest wind farms on sites off our coastline.
- Continue to support the provision of improved broadband, especially in rural areas.
- Make sure all our Local Development Plan land allocated for economic development is available for new and expanding business developments at sites across the county.
- Support the development of DunBear Park and the establishment of more successful businesses like Dunbar Garden Centre and create as much employment as possible.
- Continue to build and create new business units to allow new business to develop and expand such as Brewery Park.
- Continue to support the development and enhancement of visitor attractions in our town centres like leisure, sport, educational and historical facilities.
- Continue to support town centres and help them to remain vibrant and attractive places for people to visit by developing shop local campaigns, the East Lothian Gift Card and encouraging events that bring people into our town centres.
- Support and encourage rural business development and training for young people in projects like the Ridge in Dunbar.

## Health Recovery: Protecting and Caring for Vulnerable and Older People

Since 2017 Labour-led East Lothian Council has:

- Supported the co-ordination of the largest vaccination programme across East Lothian with a local vaccination bus.
- Opened the Corn Exchange in Haddington as a vaccination centre for the county.
- Supported the distribution of nearly 6 million pieces of PPE from the Hub at East Lothian Community Hospital during the pandemic.
- Opposed the centralisation of our health and social care services.
- Taken East Lothian from being the worst performing council for delayed discharge from hospital to one of the best performing in Scotland.
- Continued to support carers across East Lothian.
- Developed and improved our Hospital to Home Service and Hospital at Home Service, allowing a faster discharge service with more support to get people back into their own home.
- Continued to develop and grow our own home care services.
- Continued to manage our beds in care homes across East Lothian to support our vulnerable and older people.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Continue to invest in adult care services, with additional investment of £1.5m next year.
- Continue to develop services and facilities to allow people to remain in their own home for as long as it is safe to do so.
- Develop Extra Care Housing across East Lothian where an individual or couple can buy or rent the Extra Care house that will meet their complex care needs.
- Ensure these houses provide care for people with complex needs and help allow them to remain within their own home in their community for life if it is safe to do so.
- Develop a long-term care strategy for East Lothian despite the result of the Government's proposed centralised National Care Service.
- Work with our NHS partners to further develop the Hospital to Home and Hospital at Home service to get people home from hospital quickly and enable them to stay at home.
- Continue to increase the internal capacity of social care staff and support the Care Academy.
- Continue to support, develop and improve our communities' day centres.
- Continue to develop our Older People Services and facilities in their communities.
- Continue to develop and support our Vulnerable Adult Services, facilities, transport, housing needs and community support.
- Continue to support the establishment of a Dementia Meeting Centre in Musselburgh and satellite bases across the county.
- Continue to support the campaign to retain all services at Edington Hospital including inpatient beds and minor injuries unit.

## Communities Recovery: Supporting our Communities to Flourish

Since 2017 Labour-led East Lothian Council has:

- Been proactive in supporting local resilience activity during the pandemic, while staff went above and beyond to support local communities and individuals.
- Given Area Partnerships and Community Councils responsibility for over £10 million of devolved funding.
- Invested in the completion of 964 local homes for rent, with a total of 1590 delivered in the last 10 years.
- Continued to invest in the renewal of council housing stock with new kitchens, bathrooms and extensions.
- Continued to invest in traffic management across East Lothian.
- Invested £27 million in road maintenance and improvement, £1.3 on parking improvements and £2.3 million on coastal erosion and flood protection projects.
- Continued to invest in sport and leisure facilities for local communities, including the refurbishment of the swimming pool at the Aubigny Centre and gyms at Dunbar Leisure Pool, Meadowmill and North Berwick Sports Centre.
- Delivered six new floodlight 3G all-weather pitches in our towns.
- Continued to provide funding and support to our Area Partnerships.
- Continued to support East Lothian's thriving voluntary sector, including local charities, community groups and social enterprises.
- Started delivering our award-winning Local Development Plan that is delivering many new mid-market houses and council houses for rent along with significant investment in new community infrastructure.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Invest £116 million in delivering over 600 new council homes and continue working with our Registered Social Landlord partners to deliver over 400 new homes for social rent.
- Continue to look for additional investment to deliver more mid-market homes.
- Continue with our Council House Modernisation Programme of £14.5 million, delivering new kitchens, bathrooms and many other improvements.
- Invest in our homes to improve their energy efficiency to help reduce bills.
- Deliver older people's housing that meets their needs and deliver Extra Care housing that will allow people to remain in their own community even with complex needs.
- Create a masterplan for the Herdmanflat site in Haddington.
- Keep investing in local sports and leisure facilities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Deliver new facilities for our young people, including new pump tracks.
- Continue to provide well maintained and high-quality public toilets in every community.
- Continue to invest in local CAB services and the Council's Welfare Rights Service.
- Continue to work with Volunteer Centre East Lothian to support East Lothian's Third Sector, including local social enterprises, and appoint a voluntary sector champion.
- Continue to implement the recommendations of the East Lothian Poverty Commission which come under the remit of East Lothian Council.
- Continue to implement the Equalities Action Plan.
- Continue to support East Lothian Food Bank and other food groups in East Lothian.



## Environmental Recovery: Making East Lothian Greener & Carbon Neutral

Since 2017 Labour-led East Lothian Council has:

- Adopted a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy setting out the Council's commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency at a local level and its vision and overall aims for becoming a 'Net Zero Council' and a 'Carbon Neutral East Lothian'.
- Agreed an Active Travel Improvement Plan, which includes the development of innovative new public transport hubs and the establishment of electric bike hire stations at three locations across the county.
- Continued to develop our network of electric vehicle charging points, ensuring East Lothian has the most chargers per head of population in mainland Scotland.
- Expanded the number of electric vehicles, with more than one in ten of the authority's vehicles now being electric.
- Continued to support the improvement of local bus services across East Lothian.
- Introduced a new weekly recycling service in a single vehicle to all areas, ensuring our recycling is now very high quality and is achieving a good return.
- Provided support to the various local 'In Bloom' groups and won the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Award at the 2021 Beautiful Scotland Awards.
- Introduced trial 20mph zones across East Lothian which will continue if supported by local communities.
- Established a grassland habitat restoration project to enhance biodiversity at various sites including Levenhall Links, Longniddry Bents, Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve, Gullane Bents, Yellowcraig turf nursery and Whitesands/Barns Ness.
- Continued to invest in our core path network across East Lothian.

If we are re-elected we will:

- Continue to implement the ambitious Climate Change Strategy and Active Travel Improvement Plan to meet the Council's target of being carbon neutral by 2045 and enhance active travel across the county.
- Continue to invest in East Lothian's electric vehicle charging points to ensure more than 200 are available locally by 2023.
- Continue to expand the number of electric vehicles in the Council's fleet.
- Continue to work with local bus operators to improve the quality and frequency of local services, including the restoration of the East Coast Buses X5 express service.
- Continue investing in our excellent parks, gardens and open spaces.
- Invest in our coastline and countryside so that they can continue to be enjoyed responsibly by everyone.
- Continue to work with local communities and funding partners on the development of the core path network, including the delivery of the Drem-Gullane path.
- Continue to support local 'In Bloom' groups with their important work helping keep our towns and villages looking their best.
- Work with communities and rail providers to push for improvements in local services and facilities at stations, including the new East Linton rail station.
- Continue to support the campaign for the Lothian Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuel assets and invest in renewable energy assets and other sustainable and ethical sectors.



## Further Information

For more information about East Lothian Labour's council election candidates, campaigning or other activity, please either visit [www.eastlothianlabourparty.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianlabourparty.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/EastLothianLabourCouncillors](https://www.facebook.com/EastLothianLabourCouncillors).

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