

**West
Dunbartonshire
Labour
Administration**

“RAISING THE GAME”

**Labour’s Programme for Progress
2003-2007**

Key Pledges

1. Keep the Council tax as low as possible while enhancing front-line services;
2. Work to secure resources to provide modern, well-equipped schools fit for the 21st Century;
3. Continue our drive to target anti-social behaviour; strengthening Labour's successful Anti-Social Investigation and support scheme with additional Neighbourhood Wardens;
4. Increase spending on lighting and CCTV to help keep our streets safe;
5. Improve our drive to target the scourge of litter by providing extra resources to the litter hit squads and introduce a Zero Tolerance attitude to graffiti by putting in place a 7 days a week graffiti busting operation.

Raising the Game

High quality best value services.

We will: -

- Keep the Council tax as low as possible while enhancing front-line services;
- Keep Council house rents as low as possible while improving housing services;
- Cut red tape and stream line services to meet your needs and by doing so generate resources to enhance and develop front-line services;
- Carry out a systematic review of our services to ensure that they provide best value;
- Monitor complaints to the Council and use the information gained to identify areas for improvement;
- Introduce Customer Service standards that set out the level of service that service users can expect when telephoning, writing or meeting the Council;
- Promote policies that will protect, restore and build confidence within our communities;
- Tackle the housing repair crisis caused by the SNP coalition
- Over the next four years, ensure that there is:-

NO RISE in Home Care Charges

NO RISE in Lunch Club Charges

NO RISE in Meals on Wheels Charges

NO RISE in Day Care Charges

NO RISE in Community Alarm Charges

NO RISE in School Meal Charges

Community Safety and Environmental Services

Crime and Vandalism

We will: -

- Work with Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Executive to play a part in reducing the levels of crime;
- Work in partnership to address racial and sexual harassment and provide improved services for victims of domestic abuse
- Work with Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Executive to put in place strategies to reduce vandalism;
- Continue with our drive to target anti-social behaviour; strengthening Labour's successful Anti-Social Investigation and Support Teams;
- Work with the Scottish Executive to extend the Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme to assist in tackling anti-social behaviour in residential estates

Lighting

We will

- Increase spending on lighting and CCTV to help keep our streets safe;
- We will continue the programme to replace street lighting columns in the area and fit them with white lights to improve safety.
- We will consider new methods of funding major lighting improvement schemes.

Litter and Graffiti

We will

- Produce a comprehensive Litter Strategy that delivers sustained improvements in the Council's management of litter, dog fouling and graffiti.
- Invest £250,000 in enhancing the existing Street Cleaning services to produce sustained improvements to environment in West Dunbartonshire.
- Improve our drive to target the scourge of litter by providing extra resources to the litter hit squads;
- Demonstrate our commitment to tackle the menace of graffiti by introducing a 7 days a week graffiti removal operation with particular emphasis on tackling racist, homophobic and sectarian graffiti.

Economic Development & Regeneration

Strategies & Plans

We will

- Complete the review of the Clydebank Local Plan.
- Re-appraise existing and former industrial designations and thereafter we will bring forward alterations, subject to consultation, to the Dumbarton Local Plan
- Concentrate on a number of specific sites and consider re-designation of land uses with a view to encouraging appropriate development in a properly planned fashion.
- Support major regeneration initiatives including Clydebank Rebuilt, and Rediscovering Dumbarton to promote needed development within a quality environment.
- Promote and support the Town Centres' Initiative
- Work with partners in the Dunbartonshire Economic Forum to prepare and implement a comprehensive strategy for the economic regeneration of West Dunbartonshire.
- Promote major strategic locations for economic development notably at Clydebank Riverside and Strathleven.

Residential Development

We will

- Bring forward major programmes of development of private and social housing.
- Prioritise in particular, derelict sites along the Rivers Clyde and Leven. They will be regenerated through significant housing developments involving a wide range of house types attractive to both local people and people choosing to live in West Dunbartonshire for the first time.
- Direct our attention, as part of the major development of new housing, towards broadening choice and improving the quality of social housing.

Business Development

We will

- Provide funds through the Business Gateway to support Start Up and Young businesses.
- Assist businesses to develop by promoting In-work training and Life Long Learning.

Training

We will

- Provide programmes focused upon providing opportunities for young people.
- Develop a comprehensive range of training opportunities under the Skillseekers programme.
- Emphasise the development of initiatives to support the engagement of young people in the Labour market who have previously been unable to access a suitable opportunity.
- Provide, through the New Deal, high quality training placements leading to employment opportunities.

Social Economy

We will

- Promote the development of social economy and third sector organisations.
- Provide advice in respect of accessing funding and training.

Transport and Access

We will

- Implement, monitor and review the Local Transport Strategy.
- Improve the integration between different modes of transport to reduce the growth of car traffic.
- Work with partner organisations to develop a safe, sustainable transport system to balance the needs of all transport modes, increase social inclusion, integrate and promote public transport.
- Continue to develop Scotland's first Quality Bus Corridor running from Faifley, through Clydebank to Baillieston to reduce travel times to and from the city by bus, taxi and cycle.
- Continue to improve the provision of bus shelters through the public transport funds available for improvements and utilisation of the income generated through the advertising contract for bus shelters.
- Undertake a detailed traffic study within Clydebank to identify the travelling needs and aspirations of the residents within Clydebank. This will facilitate the future planning of improvements to the road network and to improving public transport provision with Clydebank.
- Educate children to travel by foot, bicycle and public transport to encourage healthier and fitter lifestyles.

- Work in partnership with the Health Boards and Education service to develop a safer and active commuting project “Travelling Green”.
- Increase the number of cycle paths and cycle lanes in West Dunbartonshire. In particular, we will extend the cycleway between Clydeshire Road and Havoc, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, to Helensburgh.

Road Safety

We will

- Introduce traffic calming and twenty's plenty schemes in more areas to reduce traffic speeds and install more pedestrian crossings to provide safer crossing places.
- Introduce a 20mph-speed restriction at all West Dunbartonshire schools;
- Deliver the road safety message to our citizens by co-ordinating all road safety initiatives and encourage inter-agency co-operation.
- Provide a road safety education, training and publicity service to all road users in West Dunbartonshire.
- Encourage a planned, progressive and co-ordinated road safety education programme within the curriculum of all nursery, primary, secondary and special schools.
- Reduce the number of casualties on our roads and by 2010, meet the national targets on casualty reduction
- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road crashes by 3.5% each year.
- Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road crashes by 4.5% each year.
- Participate in the Strathclyde safety camera partnership and introduce speed camera sites within West Dunbartonshire to assist in achieving our targets for reducing accidents.
- Take reasonable steps to prevent snow and ice endangering the safety of the public on our road and footway network by further developing our Winter Maintenance Strategy in consultation with our citizens.

Flooding

We will

- Develop coast protection flood prevention schemes in partnership with Glasgow City Council and submit applications for match funding to the Scottish Executive.
- Prepare and publish Flood Prevention reports that will specify the measures necessary to prevent or mitigate flooding of non-agricultural land.

The Environment & Access to the Countryside

We will

- Develop programmes to make environmental awareness and action part of the life and ethos of our communities to improve the environment, reduce litter and waste, reduce energy consumption and encourage citizenship.
- Support the diversion of waste from landfill and in accordance with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area Waste Plan, by making an application for Strategic Waste funding to enable us to:-
 - Enhance kerbside recycling by introducing recycling bins to 33,000 householders.
 - Create up to 45 mini recycling stations at multi-storey/multi-occupancy housing properties.
 - Introduce a comprehensive waste awareness/education programme for the residents of West Dunbartonshire.
 - Improve the recycling infrastructure at our Dalmoak and Erskine Ferry Road Civic Amenity sites.
- In partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, work with parents to teach school pupils respect for themselves/others and the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.
- Investigate the potential to upgrade our public toilet facilities to a modern standard for the benefit of residents and visitors to West Dunbartonshire
- Fully maintain our commitment to the care of garden scheme;
- Continue to work with Greenlight Environmental to deliver improvements to the environment and thereby develop employment and training opportunities for unemployed people.
- Continue to work in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Environmental Trust and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Greenspace Trust to sustain local communities through environmental regeneration.
- Support programmes to improve the amenity of green spaces throughout the Council area.
- Work with partners to improve the quality of the natural environment
- Ensure that appropriate access to the surrounding countryside is promoted.

Leisure Activities

We will

- Provide the opportunity for every citizen to learn new skills and develop their abilities through participation in sport and exercise
- Maintain and develop existing and new partnerships with key agencies such as partnerships with NHS Argyll and Clyde , NHS Greater Glasgow, local and national sporting organisations and governing bodies, etc
- Retain accreditation to the Quest quality assurance scheme
- Achieve Charter Mark for the whole service by 2005
- Achieve Quest accreditation for the Sports Development unit and the Haldane Barn by 2005.
- Develop funding opportunities for an Acquisitions & Maintenance Budget
- Strengthen the links between Culture and Heritage and the Community Planning process,

Children's Services

We will provide, with the assistance of other agencies and partners, a comprehensive and high quality service to all children within West Dunbartonshire

Education

We will

- Develop and provide early childhood services for those children who have not reached the statutory school age
- Provide modern, well-equipped schools fit for the 21st Century
- Improve the accessibility of all our school as part of the renewal of the schools estate.
- Bid for PPP funding & negotiate acceptable/affordable contracts
- Ensure effective consultation with all stakeholders
- Maximise opportunities for investment through the Schools Improvement fund
- Continue to maintain existing educational establishments to the highest level possible until new schools come on line
- Increase educational attainment by means of inclusive Community Learning Centres

- Increase attainment above national minimum requirements
- Reduce exclusions/create alternatives beyond national minimum requirements
- Create safe learning environments where staff and pupils can be confident that disruptive or bullying pupils will be dealt with firmly

Personal Development

We will

- Actively support Healthy Living initiatives. We will promote access to Healthy Eating options, Passport to Leisure including free swims and opportunities to take part in sporting activities.
- Aim to have 85% of West Dunbartonshire school children as Passport to Leisure cardholders giving discounted access to sport, leisure and exercise activities by June 2005
- Provide four neighbourhood fitness facilities on school sites, fully operational and integrated within the service by Autumn 2003 to provide accessible facilities for children and citizens in S.I.P. areas.
- Provide a wide-ranging programme of after school sport and activity clubs and pre-school age sport and activity clubs to be set up in S.I.P. areas by March 2004.
- Increase the number of young people taking regular exercise by expanding the range of opportunities for teenagers to take part in exercise and fitness activities
- Expand the opportunities for young people to take part in sport through the core sports development programmes.
- Create regional sports coaching squads in at least 3 core sports by 2005.

Protection

We will

- Develop a Children's Service Plan.
- Promote the protection of children from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect and investigate allegations of abuse.
- Maintain, as a high priority, the necessary staffing, training and research in order to promote protection of children from all kinds of abuse
- Work to prevent family breakdown and the resultant need to take children into care by means of a range of practical support
- Provide substitute family care for children received into care
- Develop a range of family placements available, particularly for older children.

- Provide a range of residential care options for children, which are flexible in response to need, and well staffed with trained personnel, all of whom are trained in line with national targets
- Prepare young people leaving residential care with a range of practical and personal support to assist them in obtaining accommodation, employment and financial stability
- Improve the services that are available to homeless young people, this should be done in association with other statutory and voluntary agencies.

Health & Social Justice

Housing Services

Allocations and Homelessness

We will

- Build on our advocacy services for people with learning difficulties and mental health problems.
- Support homelessness projects that will remove the need to use bed and breakfast accommodation where possible.
- Develop a common housing register and innovative allocations policies.

Housing Repairs and Maintenance

We will:

- Introduce a website based reporting mechanism which will allow the tenant to trace the action taken on their repair
- Tackle the Council housing repair crisis caused by the SNP led coalition
- Provide carbon monoxide detectors for older and disabled people.
- Improve housing maintenance through a painter work programme.
- Install mains wired smoke alarms in every council house.
- Introduce sensor activated security lighting to help pensioners and disabled people feel secure in their homes.
- Commit to projects that will enhance the appearance of our estates.

Rent and Housing Benefit Services

We will:

- Ensure that any rent rise directly reflects improvements the tenant can see.

Social Services

Community Care

We will:

- Provide services to people with physical or sensory disability to allow them to remain in the community and receive support through, for example, the provision of aids and adaptations.
- Provide personal care at home and help with domestic care if required.
- Provide support to people with learning disabilities to ensure that they access mainstream facilities wherever possible.
- Assess care needs and co-ordinate community care services for people at home, in hospital, or in care homes.
- Develop and maintain home care and support services to allow people to be cared for within their own homes for as long as possible.
- Assess and respond to need for service of all community care clients groups including the carers of service users.
- Work with partner agencies to ensure that the balance of care and the necessary funding is moved from institutional care towards community-based resources.

Criminal Justice

We will:

- Provide Social Enquiry Reports and other reports as requested by the courts.
- Supervise offenders through the provision of probation.
- Supervise offenders through Community Service.
- Investigate the reasons for an offender's criminal behaviour and consider how best to reduce the risk of further offending.
- Assist offenders to accept responsibility for their offending behaviour, including its consequences for themselves, their families, the survivors of crime and the wider community

- Provide a supervised attendance scheme, an arrest and referral, diversion and restorative justice models of service provision

Mental Health

We will:

- Establish joint community mental health teams across West Dunbartonshire bringing health and social work together.
- Develop new housing support services to prevent hospital admissions.
- Develop models of care planning to ensure that people with mental health problems are supported effectively in the community and community safety is achieved.
- Create mental health officer posts to tackle the requirements of new legislation.

Learning Disability

We will:

- Continue to build on the success achieved in developing services and delivering the Scottish Executives policy “Same As You”.
- Increase housing support to allow people to live independently.
- Put in place an authority wide service combining health and social work.
- Enhance the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in employment, training, and leisure.

Addiction

We will:

- Tackle the Governments targets for reducing drug misuse and alcohol misuse through partnership working and the Alcohol and Drug Action Teams.
- Maintain the growth of treatment and rehabilitation services. Set targets for the number of people using addiction services and set targets to increase the speed of access to these services.
- Target services at reducing harm of alcohol and drug misuse and reduce drug related deaths.

Support for Carers

We will:

- Develop the new carers' centre in Dumbarton that on the lines of the pilot project in Clydebank. Labour will build on our achievements and will make

extra funding available to carers in order to buy short breaks/respite services.

- Increase the number of carers accessing help.
- In conjunction with carers, produce a Joint Carers' Strategy and information for carers.
- Enable and support users and carers to purchase their own care through the Direct Payment Scheme that was set up in 2003.

Home Care

We will:

- Increase the number of people receiving home care and respite and increase the levels of home care.
- Develop new models of care and support in health and social work by integrating services and achieving key goals of the Joint Future agenda in Community Care and Better integration of all children's services.
- Meet the new standards set by the Care Commission and the Scottish Council for Social Services.
- Sustain the growth in services to older people to allow them to continue to live among their friends and families in their own homes.

Residential Homes

Labour will:

- Modernise the Council's residential care homes and create an additional 120 places to meet future care needs
- Support older people in order that they can remain among friends and family and are able to stay in their own homes.

Disability Resources

We will:

- Reduce the aids and adaptations waiting list for disabled people
- Work with West Dunbartonshire Access Panel to promote services that are accessible and delivered in a manner that is flexible, responsive, and sensitive to the needs and preferences of the service users.

Welfare Rights

We will:

- Assess all agencies providing a Welfare Rights Service within West Dunbartonshire with a view to maximising impact and reducing duplication
- Promote anti-poverty strategies.

- Sustain a major campaign on tax and pension credit.
- Work with all agencies that promote a non-profit approach to money advice

Services for Elderly People

We will:

- Create one hundred new sheltered or very sheltered housing places
- Carry out a review of the existing sheltered housing complexes
- Introduce SMART technologies in homes to increase the safety and confidence of vulnerable older people.
- Provide older vulnerable people with home safety and energy conservation checks for their homes using care and repair and SOLAS.
- Increase expenditure on older people's welfare schemes in real terms, each year.
- Reduce the fear of crime among older people in co-operation with partner agencies.
- Establish a "Dundee Families" type project to link with other measures to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Commission special services for dementia sufferers and their carers.

Social Work

We will

- Involve service users, carers and the wider community in planning for services.
- Work with health, housing, and education services to assess needs and make access to services easier and speedier.
- Collaborate with partner agencies to develop a better-integrated system of service delivery.
- Bring key services together in a New Community Health Partnership for West Dunbartonshire.
- Develop new joint teams across health and social work to co-ordinate assessment and care management.
- Create a Trainee Scheme to train social workers and all other social work staff to be trained to the appropriate levels.
- Use the Councils Quality Assurance Section to maintain and improve standards of care in our own services and all those funded by West Dunbartonshire Council.