

## **Stirling: A Prosperous, Poverty-free and Inclusive Future**

The SNP Group of Stirling Councillors and the Labour Group of Stirling Councillors have committed to working productively and proactively together to improve the lives of all our citizens across all our communities during the lifetime of this Administration. This document sets out our six key priorities and will help guide our politicians and council officers in decision making and moving Stirling forward.

### **Priority A**

**We will look after all of our citizens, from early years through to adulthood, by providing quality education and social care services, to allow everybody to lead their lives to their full potential.**

### **Priority B**

**We will target all forms of poverty across our communities and mitigate the impact of austerity and welfare cuts on those hit the hardest.**

### **Priority C**

**We will create more affordable housing and social housing in all of Stirling's communities. We will lead by example as an organisation in setting exceptional standards in building practice, environmental practice, employer practice, tenant relations and homelessness prevention.**

### **Priority D**

**We will deliver inclusive economic growth and promote prosperity. We will deliver a City Region Deal and pursue policies and solutions that encourage high quality, high paying jobs into all of Stirling's communities.**

### **Priority E**

**We will create and implement environment and infrastructure improvements. We will deliver new ownership and delivery methods around energy generation, public transport and internet access, ensuring profits and services work to community, not commercial priorities.**

### **Priority F**

**We will commit and coordinate our resources to ensuring Stirling becomes a must visit destination; with heritage, culture, environment and economic strategies working hand in hand to encourage tourists to stay for a minimum of three days and two nights.**

## Priority A

**We will look after all of our citizens, from early years through to adulthood, by providing quality education and social care services, to allow everybody to lead their lives to their full potential.**

*Our citizens are at the heart of everything we do and Stirling Council touches all of our lives from cradle to grave. The needs of our citizens and communities are constantly evolving and we must be mindful that our services evolve and adapt alongside them.*

*We will direct, but not limit, our services and resources towards the following considerations:*

- 1) We will support the delivery of locally based after-school and holiday childcare for nursery to P7 children
- 2) We will support the development of appropriate regional education collaborative to deliver specialist help
- 3) We will continue to invest in our school estate to improve facilities
- 4) We will ensure parents and local communities play a role in the day to day life of their school
- 5) We will work with Big Noise to transfer learning to other communities in Stirling in a financially sustainable manner
- 6) We will invest in transitional support into Higher and Further Education for school leavers
- 7) We will introduce measures to upgrade school CCTV systems to take advantage of technological improvements
- 8) We will work with professionals and external partners to contain pressure on care budgets, through pro-active planning and transformational change.
- 9) We will deliver the Stirling care village
- 10) We will ensure people live in their own homes for as long as possible by increasing the availability of care services and protecting budgets for adaptations in homes to aid independent living for the duration of this Administration
- 11) We will work with partners towards eliminating delayed discharge
- 12) We will work with partners to make the Stirling Council area a Dementia Friendly area
- 13) We will champion the rights of Young People and Looked After Children in our care
- 14) We will support foster and kinship carers with financial assistance and access to relevant resources
- 15) We will work with partners to put mental health on an equal footing with physical health in all council programmes
- 16) We will help people manage their own health by promoting and resourcing community led opportunities
- 17) We will expand access to respite time and facilities for family and friend carers

## Priority B

**We will target all forms of poverty across our communities and mitigate the impact of austerity and welfare cuts on those hit the hardest.**

*Poverty is an affront to all of us and we must lead the way in helping those who need our help the most. We are already ensuring that everyone entitled to it receives compensation for the bedroom tax and we are doing much to protect services from the worst cuts caused by government austerity. But we must do more.*

*We will direct, but not limit, our services and resources towards the following considerations:*

- 1) We will promote school breakfast clubs
- 2) We will promote financial literacy in all areas and to all age groups
- 3) We will ensure credit unions are available to all our citizens where appropriate
- 4) We will invest in training and support for our council officers to ensure they are best placed to help those affected by welfare reform, PIP and the impact of Universal Credit
- 5) We will continue our programme of insulating homes and work tirelessly to eradicate fuel poverty
- 6) We will work with the Community Planning Partnership and other partners to tackle the wide divergence of health inequalities between our communities
- 7) We will promote poverty proofing the school day, ensuring every child has the support they need to learn
- 8) We will tackle digital poverty in our schools and in our communities to ensure our citizens have the tools they need to learn in a digital world
- 9) We will have a fundamental review of all council fees and charges
- 10) We will resource our schools to provide access to free sanitary products for all girls
- 11) We will consider a rent pressure zone for the city centre
- 12) We will promote measures to ensure our school meal service is an attractive choice for our schoolchildren and has the resources to provide healthy, inexpensive food
- 13) We will be inclusive with all our citizens through dialogue when setting policy
- 14) We will develop and build on the localities programme and create a model that gives power back to grassroots
- 15) We will support the concept and implementation of participatory budgeting
- 16) We will make available up to 1% of the Stirling council budget to facilitate innovative solutions for delivery of services by our communities
- 17) We will revise Community Council boundaries and the Scheme of Establishment before the next Community Council elections in 2018
- 18) We will establish a diversity charter to promote dignity, respect and social inclusion for every citizen across the Stirling Council area
- 19) We will ensure the Stirling Area Access Panel are consulted on all planning applications

## Priority C

**We will create more affordable housing and social housing in all of Stirling's communities. We will lead by example as an organisation in setting exceptional standards in building practice, environmental practice, employer practice, tenant relations and homelessness prevention.**

*Our citizens require warm, safe, appropriate and affordable accommodation in the communities where they most feel a connection. We must commit as an organisation to creating more affordable housing and social housing. We must commit as an organisation to champion ethical thinking in all that we do and encouraging the same with our partner organisations. We must lead, and be seen to lead, by example.*

*We will direct, but not limit, our services and resources towards the following considerations:*

- 1) We will commit to not privatising council services
- 2) We will protect current in-house services and consider bringing services back in-house whenever appropriate.
- 3) We will protect employee rights at Stirling Council and enhance our working relationship with Trades Union.
- 4) We will deliver apprenticeship and training opportunities within Stirling Council
- 5) Stirling Council will continue to be a Living Wage Employer and will pursue policies and practices that promote the concept of Stirling as a Living Wage Region
- 6) We will introduce a £10 per hour Living Wage to Stirling Council employees
- 7) We will ensure landlords live up to their obligations to tenants, and maintain their properties
- 8) We will set up a private Landlord/Tenant Forum to enhance property management
- 9) We will create at least 700 social homes in the next five years.
- 10) We will invest in our council houses to ensure they are warm, safe and secure
- 11) We will introduce innovative policies which enable the building of affordable housing by local residents in agreed designated areas
- 12) We will maintain limits on the number of HMOs in communities
- 13) We will invest in training and support for our council officers to ensure they are best placed to help support our citizens avoid homelessness.
- 14) We will carry out a root and branch review of rural and urban homelessness to ensure our services are sensitive to the needs of our citizens.

## Priority D

**We will deliver inclusive economic growth and promote prosperity. We will deliver a City Region Deal and pursue policies and solutions that encourage high quality, high paying jobs into all of Stirling's communities.**

*We will direct, but not limit, our services and resources towards the following considerations:*

- 1) Through delivery of our economic growth and regeneration strategies, and by using our City Region Deal as a significant driver, we will deliver sustainable economic growth across the Stirling area providing greater opportunities for all.
- 2) Through delivery of new and enhanced infrastructure, new skills and employability programmes and a stronger business support landscape we will ensure Stirling realises our ambition of becoming an economic powerhouse.
- 3) We will attract new business and investment, support the start-up and growth of local businesses and ensure this work delivers real opportunities for existing businesses and all of our residents.
- 4) Working in close partnership with our key partners we will secure the future of Stirling's economy through continued development of high-growth sectors such as digital and aquaculture, whilst supporting the development and growth of our traditional sectors, to ensure Stirling has a sustainable economic base.
- 5) We will ensure local companies, of all sizes, have the support to compete successfully for public sector contracts
- 6) We will promote social enterprise companies, cooperatives, and other models of ownership which support the circular economy
- 7) We will introduce a Stirling Youth Guarantee and we will establish a Local Skills Forum to further align our employability, enterprise partnerships and schemes
- 8) We will develop a digital training strategy to ensure young people are learning skills needed to support jobs in Stirling's digital economy
- 9) We will provide opportunities for inward investment and indigenous business growth
- 10) We will ensure Stirling's economic strategy promotes and enhances Stirling's key sectorial strengths

## Priority E

**We will create and implement environment and infrastructure improvements. We will deliver new ownership and delivery methods around energy generation, public transport and internet access, ensuring profits and services work to community, not commercial priorities.**

*While our citizens are the lifeblood of our communities, the environment and infrastructure are the arteries which allow us to function and flourish. As an organisation we must be mindful of our obligations to our environment and continue to push the boundaries of what we can achieve for our citizens through innovation and transformation in the local economy.*

*We will direct, but not limit, our services and resources towards the following considerations:*

- 1) We will work with partners to ensure superfast broadband is available to every household by 2021
- 2) We will work with partners to continue to roll out a gigabit internet connection across the city
- 3) We will create a business case for a community owned Internet Service Provision Company to ensure affordable broadband is available to everybody and profits are used for community benefit
- 4) We will create a business case for a community owned Utility Company, generating green energy locally and selling it to local residents and businesses, reinvesting profits into the business and our communities
- 5) We will create a business case for a community owned public transport company fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and reinvest any profits into the business and our communities
- 6) We will continue to support and invest in solar power solutions across Stirling Council's housing stock
- 7) We will support communities to look at their own innovative solutions around renewable energy, public transport and internet provision
- 8) We will introduce a campaign to reduce litter and dog fouling. We will use the enforcement powers and people available to Stirling council to look after our public spaces.
- 9) We will increase investment in our local play parks
- 10) We will review and enhance the Garden Maintenance Assistance scheme
- 11) We will improve the upkeep of our estates within social housing areas
- 12) We will maintain Stirling Council's impressive recycling record
- 13) We will allocate more land for allotments and community gardens
- 14) We will support our libraries with funding and resources to ensure they are 21<sup>st</sup> century community hubs that are digitally competent
- 15) We will protect and adequately resource our mobile libraries
- 16) We will make progress on accessibility to buildings and making streets and pavements suitable for people with disabilities
- 17) We will increase expenditure each year at least in line with inflation on improving the condition of our roads and road safety
- 18) We will use the decriminalised powers over parking to tackle pavement parking, inconsiderate parking and ensure permit holder parking spaces are not abused
- 19) We will introduce speed activated signs and 20mph zones where appropriate, and supported by local communities
- 20) We will invest in Bandeath dog Shelter

## **Priority F**

**We will commit and coordinate our resources to ensuring Stirling becomes a must visit destination; with heritage, culture, environment and economic strategies working hand in hand to encourage tourists to stay for a minimum of three days and two nights.**

*Stirling is blessed with world class heritage and landscape and we must ensure all of our communities are taking advantage of the enviable opportunities this affords us.*

*We will direct, but not limit, our services and resources towards the following considerations:*

- 1) We recognise that tourists have different expectations of destinations and facilities, dependent on the length of time they intend to visit and stay. We will focus, without limiting our efforts, on growing the average length of visitor stay to 2 nights and three days
- 2) We recognise the quality of our built environment must complement the quality of our heritage and landscape environment and will work to ensure it does.
- 3) We will bring industry, communities and partner organisations together to deliver a collaborative and unified approach to growing the tourism industry across Stirling's communities, supporting economic growth and opportunities for all
- 4) We will have greater investment and focus on delivering essential tourism infrastructure, new tourism products and on supporting the growth of tourism related businesses
- 5) We will significantly grow and resource our culture and events programme, supported by stronger destination marketing.
- 6) Will have ensure greater investment and focus on; delivering essential tourism infrastructure, developing new tourism products, supporting the growth of tourism related businesses,
- 7) We will support the creative arts, their ideas and their ambitions across Stirling Council
- 8) We will increase the cycling and walking routes around the Stirling Council area and promote our area to activity focused tourism
- 9) We will make Stirling a Good Food City
- 10) We will promote Stirling as a City of Sport and look to attract more elite facilities and headquarters, while ensuring facilities are available to all of our citizens

**- ENDS -**