

Stirling Constituency Labour Party

Manifesto for Stirling 2022-2027

www.stirlinglabour.org



Scottish Labour

Promoted by Jimmy Morton on behalf of Josh Hamilton, Gerry McGarvey, Ewan Dillon, Danny Gibson, Jen Preston, Chris Kane and Margaret Brisley, all at Scottish Labour, 290 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4RE. Printed by Armstrong Printing, 75-77 Whins Road, Alloa, FK10 3SA

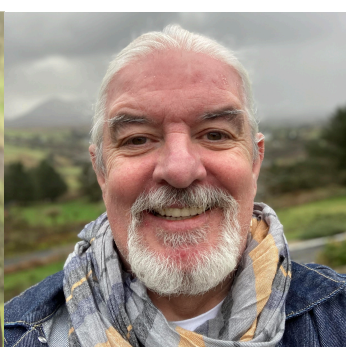
Contents

Our Candidates	Page 1
Foreword	Page 2
Key Pledges	Page 3
Thriving and Safe Communities	Page 4
Successful and Skilled Communities	Page 5
Healthy and Cared for Communities	Page 6
Communities with Homes for All	Page 7
Learning Communities	Page 8
Well connected and sustainable communities	Page 9
Key concepts – more information	Page 10

Meet your Labour Candidates for Stirling Council



Trossachs and Teith
Josh Hamilton



Forth and Endrick
Gerry McGarvey



**Dunblane &
Bridge of Allan**
Ewan Dillon



Stirling North
Danny Gibson



Stirling West
Jen Preston



Stirling East
Chris Kane



Bannockburn
Margaret Brisley

campaign@stirlinglabour.org
www.stirlinglabour.org

Foreword

“The Labour Party is a democratic socialist Party. We believe that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone, so as to create for each of us the means to realise our true potential and for all of us a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few; where the rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe and where we live together freely, in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect”

The above statement from the Labour Party constitution is at the heart of who we are and what we represent. This document will guide Labour Councillors in their decision making, priorities and actions from 2022-2027. All decisions will be made in consultation and collaboration with our communities, workforce and trades unions.

Labour is the only Party with a vision for Stirling's future and track record of success in power during previous Administrations.

It is through cooperation and continuing dialogue with Stirling citizens that we will reach a consensus on how to create a fair, just and prosperous Stirling.

What will Stirling Labour DO for you?

The Labour Party has always and will always work hard for the communities and the people of Stirling. Stirling Labour has always put you, your family and community at the heart of our work. YOU will always be our priority. Through our pledges you can judge our commitment to improving the quality of life for Stirling's people.

Why do we need a manifesto?

Our Manifesto sets out our Priorities for Action in Stirling. It is organised around our key pledges setting out the actions which we will pursue throughout the term of the next Council.

We recognise that the Council cannot do everything alone. We will continue to challenge both the Scottish Government and the UK Government after years of continuous cuts to Council budgets along with the centralisation of power to these governments that takes away resources and decision making from local government - and from local people.

Labour will DEFEND local services in Stirling. We will ensure Stirling has a strong voice within COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) and will fight to ensure both the Scottish and UK Governments respect local authorities with fair, multi-year funding settlements.

On May 5th, 2022 - when you go to the polls to vote in the Stirling Council elections - you have a chance to choose Labour candidates who will put you first.

**Please vote '1' for your Scottish Labour candidate
and let's build a better Stirling, together.**

Key Pledges

1. Challenge rising living costs

There is a severe cost of living crisis which affects everyone in our communities, cutting the quality of life for most families and dragging more people into severe poverty. It is Labour's primary mission to do all we can to lift people and communities out of poverty by using every power we have to improve the lives of those living in challenging circumstances. We recognise that in the coming years we must do more; fight for funding and resources from governments; work with all the agencies to maximise resources and support and listen to the needs of our communities – and respond with appropriate support.

2. Improve your quality of life by providing services that meet your needs

- a. **Children and Young People:** access to high quality childcare and schools which are well resourced and give your children the best start in life. Every child and young person should have access to after school support and extra- curricular activities; additional support for those with additional support needs and those who have fallen behind due to COVID.
- b. **Safe and thriving communities:** with good street lighting and safe walking routes, access to libraries, sports facilities and cultural experiences. Well-maintained parks, roads and pathways, allotments and community gardens.
- c. **Housing:** new build and regeneration schemes with a focus on modernisation and upgrading, insulation and carbon neutral electricity generation. Prioritising new social housing in line with the *Passivehaus* model where possible.
- d. **Transport:** Labour will fight to ensure an integrated transport system for every community that is run for public good and not private profit. Labour is committed to improved road transport regulation, in consultation with communities, plus Council wide sensible cycling and walking routes.
- e. **Climate emergency:** Labour will work with communities and listen to their needs, especially about ways to improve our recycling. We will also support innovation and local projects generating clean, renewable energy. Labour Councillors will explore new ways to heat our homes based on best practice. We will improve, invest in and maintain green spaces across our communities. We will seek out resources and partnerships to ensure superfast broadband is available in ALL our communities.
- f. **Economic recovery, jobs & regeneration:** Labour will ensure a strong focus on the recovery of the local economy. It will be a recovery which puts citizens' needs at the forefront of the Council's actions and addresses the climate emergency. It will be a 'local first' approach to spending, ensuring that local businesses have the best opportunity to win Council procurement contracts, so we can keep Council funding local and help reduce carbon emissions. It will prioritise well-paying secure jobs. Encourage local job creation. Develop community wealth building strategies. Promote business models that support wellbeing. Recognise the contribution of our public sector key workers.

Underpinning Stirling Labour's Key Pledges

Stirling Labour will ensure that all Council policies and practices will embed the following:

Listening to citizens through local democracy and partnership working
Challenging rising living costs and tackling poverty
Providing good local services
Growing the local economy

Thriving and Safe Communities

Listening to you - Local Democracy and Partnership Working

- Having a 48 hour response time implemented for all Council enquiries and the option to speak directly in person or on the phone to address any issues individuals may face.
- Ensuring citizens can directly influence council actions and spending, promoting participation and consultation through digital channels, supporting Area Forums, enabling delegations to Council committees and full council meetings, and a robust consultation and petitions process.
- Building stronger relationships across the third sector and the private sector and embedding partnership working into Council services where appropriate.
- Supporting local services being delivered in-house by council employees wherever possible, but recognising that we cannot do everything in isolation. We are fortunate in Stirling to have a strong third sector and we commit to supporting this through partnership working, support for Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprises, and third sector support for Council services where appropriate.
- Valuing the impact made by Community Councils and Community Development Trusts and continuing to provide support, both financial and administrative, where appropriate.
- Encouraging decision making closer to the people affected by these decisions.

Core Services that meet the needs of our communities

- Tackling poverty in every way will be a core service of the Council. We must also do all we can to address the underlying causes of poverty and ensure that we are targeting more resources into the communities and to our citizens who need our help the most.
- Improving Stirling's already impressive recycling record and ensuring our bins are collected on time. An annual review of collection arrangements to ensure everything is working as it should and a commitment to make changes if it is not.
- Investing in more people and better equipment to help keep our streets clean and free of litter. We will use community wardens to crack down on irresponsible dog owners who won't clean up after their pets.
- Investing in a programme to remove graffiti from public spaces and we'll use the full powers available to us to crack down on fly tippers.
- Investing in flood prevention measures and improving (and clearing) drains.

Community Safety. *Everyone should feel safe and confident when accessing public spaces and neighbourhoods.*

- Placing a renewed emphasis on community policing. Good relationships between police and local communities are key to maintaining trust and ensuring victims feel safe to come forward.
- Giving local government a stronger role in local policing plans and budgets.
- Ensuring specific funding and support for those fleeing domestic violence.
- Investing more resources in community warden services so they can take robust action against anti-social behaviour and target responses towards those areas most in need of support.
- Piloting physical space safety audits and providing planners with guidance on how to make neighbourhoods safer, with good street lighting, open spaces and priority on safe walking routes.

Thriving and Safe Communities

Sport, Leisure and Culture. Improving access to and enhancing Sport, Leisure and Cultural activities by:

- Ensuring our libraries are community hubs with appropriate facilities.
- Creating more “Makers’ Spaces” so more communities can enjoy this exciting new opportunity. *(more info on page 10)*
- Committing to never closing a library and increasing opening hours and staffing provision where budgets allow.
- Delivering a new Archives provision within the next Administration. Stirling Archives has played an important role in Stirling for centuries but is running out of space.
- Continuing to support The Smith Art Gallery and Museum to curate and display items from Stirling’s past.
- Supporting communities to explore and promote their heritage through heritage trails that are inter-connected to allow others to explore Stirling’s communities in a structured way.
- Working with partners to realise the ambition of the recent City of Culture bid to enhance cultural experiences across all communities that are open to all.
- Working to ensure the Albert Halls is redeveloped to play a key role as an anchor of our cultural ambitions.
- Encouraging and supporting Stirling’s Cultural Partnership to share ideas and best practice to provide the best arts and cultural experiences for all ages.
- Attracting national exhibitions to Stirling in partnership with further and higher education, arts organisations and venues.
- Having regular events and activities available in local parks to give a structured reason to visit them.
- Investing in community playparks, working with your young people to deliver play equipment that excites them. Ensuring adequate seating for parents.
- Investing resources in an enhanced ‘Ranger Service’ within the Council to tend to our parks and open spaces through vegetation clearance, tree management, wildflower (and other appropriate) planting and wildlife care. We’ll ensure our core paths and favourite walking routes are well maintained.
- Investing in our sports pavilions and in community facilities where necessary and investing in the upkeep and drainage to our football pitches.
- Giving local communities better access to school sports and leisure facilities when not in school use.
- Continuing to promote Stirling as a location for world class sporting events, ensuring that each event includes elements of participation for local citizens and leaves a legacy of increased participation.

A Right To Food. We believe everybody has a right to good, affordable, nutritious, and culturally suitable food by:

- Securing ‘Good Food City’ status for Stirling.
- Ensuring the Council takes the lead in locating and securing land for allotments and community gardens. We would not ask communities to source and resource school provision; we will not expect them to source land for community food growing.
- Ensuring Council resources continue to tackle the underlying causes of food banks and not simply rely on charities to address food poverty.
- Promoting the use of our Council owned kitchens, including in our schools, to provide education and opportunities to share ideas and recipes as part of a community cooking skills strategy.

Successful and Skilled Communities

A focus on economic recovery, jobs and regeneration. By:

- Ensuring Stirling Council uses its resources to make a positive impact on our local economy, both as a participant and as a strategic body.
- Ensuring Stirling Council has the vision, strategic frameworks and the support to bring good jobs with fair pay and fair conditions across the district.
- Supporting the transformation of our town centres to ensure that they are places where we are proud to live, shop and work by following the '20 minute neighbourhood' principles. *(more details on page 10)*
- Focusing on delivering the promise of high paying jobs through collaborations with Codebase and other digital partners, and through the projects of the City Region Deal.
- Encouraging alternative models of ownership, including co-operatives, social enterprises and credit unions.
- Instructing officers to bring forward an innovative tourism strategy that brings together the opportunities afforded by our world class heritage and our world class environment.
- Ensuring that rural communities are not left behind, with a focus on ensuring that community hubs, such as the one championed by Labour Councillors in the former RBS building in Bannockburn, will provide opportunities across the district.
- Focusing on revitalising high streets and town centres across the district. We will support Business Improvement Districts wherever there is a demand.
- Introducing 'town centre' managers for each ward to ensure our neighbourhoods have an adequately supported and promoted business and retail area.
- Introducing a community wealth building strategy, working with partners and using the financial power of the Council to do so. *(more details on page 10)*
- Ensuring Stirling Council takes a 'local first' approach to spending, procurement and asset use.
- Leading the way in setting the standards we want all organisations to aspire to in employee relations and in paying more than the living wage. We will put net zero considerations at the heart of decision making around resources. We will not outsource Council services and we will bring back in-house services whenever possible.
- Pursuing policies and practices that deliver good jobs with the living wage and fair conditions. We will work hand in hand with the trades unions and ensure a secure and supported public sector workforce.
- Ensuring the Council continues to offer solid employability support programmes and increase the number of modern apprenticeships offered throughout the Council.
- Working with our schools, college and university to provide the skills training essential to support the task of tackling the climate emergency so that local people are able to benefit from the new jobs which will be created to adapt heating systems and insulate buildings in both the public and private sector.
- Striving to ensure Stirling is a beacon for the country's top employers as we seek to bring more and better jobs across the district through inward investment.

Healthy and Cared For Communities

- Helping people live in their own homes for longer by protecting budgets for adaptations in homes for items such as stair lifts and walk-in showers.
- Reaffirming our commitment to making Stirling a dementia friendly city. We'll achieve this by ensuring all Council services must consider dementia provision when delivering services and infrastructure.
- Ensuring mental health is on an equal footing with physical health in all council programmes and initiatives.
- Ensuring Stirling Council plays a strong leadership role in Stirling's Community Planning Partnership and sets a strong example of partnership working and resource sharing.
- Improving accessibility to buildings and making streets and pavements more suitable for people with disabilities.
- Being inclusive with older people and those with disabilities through meaningful dialogue when setting policy.
- Supporting foster and kinship carers with financial assistance and access to relevant resources.
- Increasing support for foster carers with improvements to child allowances, access to respite and measures to increase the number of foster carers.
- Ensuring Labour representation on the Health and Social Care Partnership's Integrated Joint Board.
- Expanding access to respite time and facilities for family and friend carers to safeguard their own health and wellbeing.

Communities with Homes for All

- Creating more Council homes in the next five years than we did in the last five years. Homes will be the right size in the right place and warm, safe, secure and energy efficient.
- Investing in our existing housing stock to ensure they are warm, safe, secure and energy efficient.
- Ensuring tenants' views are put first and that landlords, both council and private, live up to their obligations.
- Focusing on addressing fuel poverty in our communities.
- Ensuring temporary accommodation is suitable and takes account of children's social, health and educational needs.
- Maintaining the limit on HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) and investigate Rent Pressure Zones where necessary. (more details on page 10)
- Establishing a "Residents' Taskforce" to give residents and owners information and support to speed up insulation and energy efficiency renovations.
- Insisting that the builders that we work with, and their suppliers, treat their employees ethically, pay them properly and support apprenticeship schemes.
- Putting pressure on the Scottish Government to ensure the planning system puts more power in the hands of local communities, not in the hands of developers or distant government bureaucrats.
- Regenerating more communities, echoing our progress in Raploch and Cultenhove.
- Prioritising new social housing along the *Passivehaus* model. (more details on page 10)

Learning Communities

- Working with teachers and educational teams to ensure our children have the tools, resources and support to recover from the pandemic.
- Addressing the attainment gap in education, which widened during the pandemic, as a priority. This inequality profoundly affects opportunities for our young people to develop emotionally, socially and academically.
- Increasing the provision of mental health counsellors, rolling out a programme in our primary schools to complement the provision already in secondary schools.
- Striving to poverty-proof the school day, ensuring all learners have the support that they need. This includes investment in computers, internet provision, clothing grants, breakfast and after school clubs, and school meal support throughout the school holidays.
- Supporting the education workforce, addressing the causes of staff shortages and tackling excessive workload by increasing the number of teachers and support staff.
- Offering extra-curricular activities for all, partnering with local organisations and sports clubs so that every young person has opportunities to access arts, sporting and recreational activities.
- Building new schools and nurseries where needed and investing in our existing school estate to ensure the learning environment is fit for purpose and that all new builds are constructed to standards that support Stirling's aim of achieving net zero emissions.
- Investing in youth services, including partnering with the voluntary sector and targeted support to areas with higher levels of deprivation.
- Ensuring the learning from the Big Noise continues to be expanded to include other communities beyond Raploch and Fallin.
- Championing the rights of care experienced young people and ensuring all areas of the Council play a full role as corporate parents.
- Ensuring a greater understanding of care experienced young people's educational needs, care and health needs through integrated staff development across services.
- Increasing access to respite time and facilities for young carers to safeguard their own health and wellbeing.
- Working with the voluntary sector to ensure availability of quality informal youth work provision that meets the needs of young people in their communities.
- Developing more family learning and other early interventions with children, young people and families.
- Building community capacities by enabling people to develop the confidence and skills to influence decision-making service delivery.
- Through Community Learning and Development Partnerships, further develop lifelong learning opportunities for young people and adults in the community and at work.

Connected and Sustainable Communities

Our communities need to be better connected, both digitally and in person. We will achieve this. By:

- Treating access to the internet as if it is as important to council services as emptying the bins or running schools.
- Investing in the necessary digital infrastructure to ensure our schools, libraries, community centres and other publicly accessible spaces have a good connection and the appropriate equipment to allow access for all.
- Working with partners such as City Fibre to roll out 'Full Fibre to the Premises' (FTTP) fast connection to the Eastern Villages and other Stirling communities.
- Bringing forward a business case for a municipal internet provider, which will see the Council use the FTTP connection to provide low cost internet to those who need it most.
- Improving roads and pavements, by fixing potholes, repairing essential roads and paths, protecting maintenance workers' jobs, and ensuring that our travel networks remain safe to use.
- Using the powers in the Transport Act to bring bus services under local ownership and control, ending the patchwork nature of services, protecting essential routes, and capping the cost of a bus journey at no more than £1.80.
- Opposing the workplace parking levy.
- Supporting shared and community transport initiatives to help drive down emissions and reduce car use, while also supporting rural and low-income communities to stay connected.
- Supporting the expansion of car clubs across Stirling.
- Improving infrastructure to support electric vehicles, increasing the number of charging points to meet projected demand, including in less well-served areas and at new properties, and ensuring local authorities have adequate maintenance resources.
- Planning that prioritises public and green transport options, identifying residential areas that would benefit from lower speed limits, creating safe cycle routes near schools and using the planning system to plan for reduced car use in urban areas and supporting better public transport.
- Promoting Active Travel and ensure that each area has a local Active Travel Plan. These plans should support increased investment, improving the maintenance of paths and street lighting, and deliver more secure cycle parking and storage. Monitor and improve the use of current cycle paths.
- Taking an in depth look at rural travel provision in consultation with communities and bringing forward a plan to increase connectivity across our communities.
- Working with industry providers to replace, and ultimately increase the provision of the Nextbike hire scheme.
- Monitoring the air quality across the district and step in to deliver improvements where necessary.
- Prioritising new social housing along the *Passivehaus* model where possible to help ensure greater energy efficiency for new builds. (more info on page 10)

Key Concepts – More information

In our manifesto we have referenced some exciting concepts and policies that are helping communities around the world, including:

Twenty minute neighbourhood

People can access the support they need in the place they live and work. Through our principle of a '20-minute neighbourhood' we will consult citizens on the location of hubs where everyone can use services in a 20-minute round trip on foot, cycle or public transport.

Passivehaus

Passivhaus is an internationally-recognised standard for energy efficient buildings. It combines elements including insulation, airtightness and building orientation to create high quality, comfortable buildings. The aim is to reduce energy consumption and so it's increasingly being used by social landlords looking to tackle fuel poverty.

Makers' Space

Makers' Spaces are collaborative work spaces for learning, exploring, making and sharing. They use high tech to very low tech tools and equipment to allow citizens to use everything from 3D printers to jewellery making benches. Labour Councillors opened the first of these spaces in Stirling in Bannockburn Library in February 2022.

Rent Pressure Zone

If rents in an area are rising too much or causing problems for tenants, Council can apply to the Scottish Government to designate a 'rent pressure zone'. If an area is so designated, a cap is set on how much rents are allowed to increase for existing tenants with a private residential tenancy each year in that area. Council is already in control of rent rates for Council owned properties.

Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building is a people centred approach to local economic development which redirects wealth back into the local economy and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

There are five core principles:

Inclusive ownership: developing more local and social enterprises, employee owned firms and cooperatives

Spending: maximising community benefits through the spending power of Stirling Council (and other public sector organisations)

Workforce: increasing fair work and developing labour markets that support the wellbeing of communities

Land and property: growing the social, economic and ecological value communities gain from assets

Finance: ensuring investment and financial institutions work for local people, communities and businesses.

Stirling Constituency Labour Party

Manifesto for Stirling 2022-2027



Scottish Labour