

How will you go about protecting public services in the current economic climate?

By saving money through efficiency measures such as making sure council buildings are energy efficient and generating income from renewable energy.

Will you oppose any proposals for privatisation of key council services?

While the Council will continue to buy services from the private sector, the Council needs to deliver key public services itself.

With budgets going down, how will you protect standards in social care?

By generating extra income through renewable energy schemes and by working with council staff to prioritise social care and education budgets.

How can you ensure that the amount of personalisation or self-directed payments are at a level for elderly or disabled people to purchase an adequate amount of care?

We are committed to protecting services to the most vulnerable in society regardless of the delivery mechanism.

Do you believe that everyone delivering public services - council staff and those working for contractors - be paid the Living Wage?

Yes. One part of our national manifesto reads as follows "Bring in a living wage of £7.20 an hour for all council staff and workers on council contracts."

Will you recognise the contribution made to our children's education by classroom assistants by supporting them in opposing cutbacks?

Yes. This is a key Aberdeenshire Greens manifesto pledge. I have consistently voted against the cut in the budget for primary school classroom assistants.

What will you do to lessen the impact of the UK Government's Welfare Reforms which will see many families losing entitlement to a range of benefits including council tax benefit, housing benefit and working tax credits?

We will see how we can ensure that people are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to, we will ensure that the housing benefit and council tax benefit offices are fully staffed so that claims are dealt with as quickly as possible.

Do you think it's fair that council staff should have their pay frozen while inflation is high and the rich are getting richer?

No.

Will you support the council negotiating a Green Workplace agreement with trade unions to help meet climate change targets?

Yes. I support the commitments in the Council's report on climate change, The Bigger Issue. Green MSPs pioneered the Climate Challenge Fund which has distributed millions of pounds to community groups for local environmental projects which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Our national manifesto recognises the central role of local government in setting targets for and delivering reductions in emissions of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

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