

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 April 2012.

This email is a response on behalf of the Scottish Labour Party candidates below.

In response to your questions, we would like to provide the following:

1. We believe that the Council should prioritise services to the most vulnerable people. This would include the homeless, those with special needs, the elderly. We should also protect educational provision and investment in future generations. This would require very detailed consideration of each area of the budget and, having set priorities, apply them fairly.
2. Yes. We do not believe that privatisation of key council services leads to savings but to a reduced level of service and poorer working conditions.
3. The local authority must maintain standards. Not only do we have a duty of care to the most vulnerable but we can make a difference to the lives of everyone with adequate levels of social service.
4. It is of paramount importance that people are provided with the information they need to make informed choices and people should not be pressurised into making decisions to self-direct for the convenience of the local authority.
5. Yes
6. Yes
7. The council must not simply be an agent of cuts but a representative of its electorate. It should seek to minimise the impact of the government's welfare cuts while campaigning on behalf of

those affected and seek to reinstate the cuts.

8. We are opposed to a pay freeze or to local pay which is being promoted by the Conservative-led coalition at Westminster.

9. Yes

We would like to add that, as new councillors, we would not expect to understand every issue instantly but would work with all stakeholders (eg unions, business, voluntary organisations) to ensure that decisions were taken with as much knowledge as possible. As Scottish Labour members, we would seek to provide a voice for those least able to speak for themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Young (Scottish Labour Party candidate for Westhill and District)

Bev Cochran (Scottish Labour Party candidate for Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside)

Lesley Young (Scottish Labour Party candidate for Banchory and Mid-Deeside)

Alison Evison (Scottish Labour Party candidate for North Kincardine)

Raymond Christie (Scottish Labour Party candidate for Stonehaven and Lower Deeside)

Gill Bayfield (Scottish Labour Party candidate for The Mearns)

Any enquiries to

Peter Young

West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine Constituency Labour Party

01330 850581