

Scottish Local Authority Elections 2022

- a manifesto for safer, healthier, fairer and greener workplaces and communities



SCOTTISH HAZARDS

November 2021

Scottish Local Government Elections 2022

Scottish Hazards is a registered charity whose aim is to reduce injury, ill health and death caused by work/workplaces in Scotland. Our Scottish Hazards Centre provides free and confidential information, advice, support and training to (mainly non-unionised) individual employees and groups of employees and also to some small and medium sized employers.

Scottish Hazards produced a Manifesto for the 2021 [Scottish Government elections](#) . We would ask that all Scottish political parties and candidates for the 2022 elections work toward meeting the key commitments outlined in that manifesto.

In addition, the specific local government commitments we seek from parties and candidates are:

1. Tackling Climate Change – to prioritise:

- a) Adopting an ambitious programme of retrofitting¹ council owned housing and encouraging and supporting housing associations and private owners of housing to do the same
- b) Developing efficient, affordable publicly owned and operated public transport
- c) Adopting an ambitious programme of council workplace adaptation² to address climate change and to encourage this in all workplaces in their council area
- d) Ensuring through procurement that sustainability is prioritised by all those receiving council grants or contracts
- e) A commitment to supporting a toxics use reduction strategy within local authorities and their workplaces, including working toward cessation of council urban/rural town use of all pesticides

2. Fair Work – to prioritise:

- a) Ensuring the council is a Fair Work³ employer as measured by all the dimensions of Fair Work

¹ Retrofitting – making improvements to homes to make them more energy efficient, address climate change through changes in sources of energy, reduce fuel poverty by making homes easier and cheaper to heat. Changes could include better insulation, replacing of windows, replacing gas central heating with heat pumps [See Living Rent campaign](#) on retrofitting.

² Workplace adaptation – to include in all risk assessment/analysis the impact of climate change on the workplace, including more extreme temperatures, flooding and to consider how best to adapt to these impacts. See [Adaptation Scotland](#)

³ See the [Fair Work Framework](#)

- b) Ensuring through procurement that all organisations receiving council grants or contracts are Fair Work employers as measured by all dimensions of Fair Work and that performance is monitored and results are publicised
- c) Ensuring through procurement that the highest health and safety standards are met throughout the council's supply chains and that performance is monitored and results are publicized.

3. **Social Care – to prioritise:**

- a) Ensuring that all social care services are the responsibility of the democratically elected local council, not of Integration Joint Boards or Community Health and Social Care Boards. These should be abolished.
- b) Ensuring that all social care services are developed in close collaboration with local communities, including those in need of care and those providing care, around community hubs/20 minute neighbourhoods
- c) Ensuring that conditions for social care workers adhere to Fair Work criteria
- d) Working toward the principles laid out in Scottish Hazards response to the NCS Consultation <https://www.scottishhazards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SH-response-051121-1.pdf>

4. **International Workers' Memorial Day – ensure that the council recognises and marks IWMD⁴ in as many and creative ways as possible, including:**

- a) Creating and maintaining a local memorial (tree, garden, sculpture, etc)
- b) Lowering council flags every 28 April to remember those who have died through work
- c) Lighting council buildings/structures in purple every 28 April
- e) Councillors working with local TUCs and others to help plan and participate in local commemorations every 28 April
- f) And crucially by continuing to adequately fund and lobby for sufficient Health and Safety structures within their areas so as to make enforcement of Health, Safety & Welfare an achievable goal and not a lofty ambition; ensuring that every worker has the right to return home at the end of their working day as safe and well as when they left to go to work.

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⁴ For more information on International Workers' Memorial Day, see [28 April](#), [Scottish Hazards IWMD](#), [FACK](#)