

# EDINBURGH GREEN COUNCILLORS' REPORT, NOVEMBER 2016

Since our last report, Edinburgh Greens have launched a public consultation on a vision for the City going into the 2017 Council elections. In a wide-ranging online consultation we've set out our stall on crucial issues, with special emphasis on Equality, Health, Pollution, Transport and Democracy. Please do participate online [here](#) we'd like to know your views.

## Greener Jobs

As our report goes to press the UK Chancellor has indicated in his Autumn statement that the Government will progress the City Region Deal, a billion pound package that Green councillors will continue to press should promote transition to a low-carbon economy, sustainable transport and building more affordable homes.

At Economy Committee, Gavin Corbett secured backing for his motion congratulating Sophie Unwin of Remade on being [UK Social Entrepreneur of the Year](#). At the same committee Gavin also challenged the provision of land for more office space in the city, saying that there was no evidence of unmet demand. Greens believe give limited land supply, affordable housing is a far greater priority.

At the end of September Chas Booth [argued](#) that jobs should be kept in Leith after Tories proposed that the Royal Yacht Britannia be used for post-Brexit diplomacy! Chas also took the opportunity at [full council in October](#) to question the Environment Convenor on recycling facilities in parks.

## Supporting Communities & Neighbourhoods

At full Council this month Nigel Bagshaw led Green opposition to the latest Local Development Plan (LDP). Greens have [consistently argued](#) for a increase in provision of housing at below current market levels, with much higher priority given to use of brownfield land and re-use of empty dwellings and other buildings and at levels of density which increase viability of decentralised services, public transport and active travel links, and collective energy and waste systems.

As the nights drew in Melanie Main set out why she believes a ['Green Doors' initiative](#) is the way forward as residents struggle to cope with maintenance including the withdrawal of council-maintained stair-lighting.

After pressure from Green Convenor Steve Burgess at [Leader's Question Time](#) in October, there was rapid cross-party agreement to take an initial small number of unaccompanied refugee children from the camp at Calais ahead of a national agreement to take further child refugees.

## Sustainable Transport

On Transport and Environment Committee councillors Nigel Bagshaw and Chas Booth tried unsuccessfully to block moves to permanently relax restrictions on other vehicles using bus lanes, because of the impact on bus journey times and cyclist and pedestrian safety.

Gavin Corbett has been using social media to collect examples of where poorly designed or located tactile paving has been causing accident risks for cyclists.

## Cleaner, Greener Energy

Following annual reports on Climate Change pollution and Sustainable Edinburgh 2050, Steve Burgess proposed actions to beef-up the Council's performance but these were rejected by the Coalition's Environment Convenor at this month's meeting of Policy & Strategy committee. This against a backdrop of rising Council climate-changing emissions which increased last year by 8%.

## Improving Public Participation - Opening up Edinburgh

Gavin Corbett proposed [Tracy Rendall of Craigentiny](#) as citizen of the year in Edinburgh and joined the Lord Provost in the award ceremony. Gavin has also been working with charity Deaf Action on weaknesses in the way the council has contracted for deaf interpretation services.

## Highlights from Green Councillors' Wards

In Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart , following a public meeting at the end of October on [drugs and related problems at Fountainbridge](#) Gavin Corbett proposed a seven point action plan and a working group to tackle the problems and the working group, with residents, councillors, housing associations and police has already met once.

In Meadows-Morningside Melanie Main has now had plans drafted to close off a rat-run in Braidburn Terrace, by making the road one-way and changing the road layout. Mel also did a ward walkabout with the Council's Head of Waste services, resulting in removal of at least 20 commercial waste bins from streets, replacement of three old paper banks and re-evaluation of residential recycling in Tollcross.

In Southside-Newington, following concerns raised by parents, Steve Burgess went on a walk-about with residents, council officers, drug advice workers and Police to look at the issue of discarded needles around the Southside. A local mini action plan has been drawn up with a view to reducing the incidence of potentially harmful discards in the area.