

THE COMMUNISTS' MANIFESTO
LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 5TH MAY 2022
LEITH WALK WARD

**COMMUNITIES
FIT FOR
WORKING CLASS
PEOPLE!**

Richard Shillcock
Communist Party

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Printed by Tradeprint, 3 Luna Place, Dundee, DD2 1TP.
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COMMUNISTS SAY:

Turn the country around—but for our class, not for the billionaires.

SCOTLAND NEEDS...

... **MORE POWERS NOW.** Scores of powers came back from Brussels when we left the EU. But Westminster is keeping them. We need them back in Holyrood.

Powers to intervene in the economy. To bring key industries, utilities and services into public ownership. To create and keep jobs. To keep value created in Scotland *in Scotland*, owned and controlled in the interests of working people.

... **THE POLITICAL WILL.** The SNP (and Greens) don't even use the powers they do have. Their leaderships are committed to the old EU rules—a free market in capital, labour, goods and services. The free market won't turn around our falling living standards. Or reverse the climate crisis. The free market *causes* these things. It can't be the solution.

... **A MASS MOVEMENT.** Working people acting together. People across Scotland and across Britain are saying No to the sky-rocketing cost of living. That unity is our best weapon!

Communists are for a mass movement of the trade unions, the trades councils, the STUC, our workplaces, campuses, schools and communities. Holyrood and the councils *need* that pressure to make them deliver.

SCOTTISH COUNCILS NEED...

... **PROPER FUNDING.** The SNP+Green government has cut real council funding by £377 million. Yet the Scottish Government's 2020/21 budget was £580m underspent! We need fair redistribution of wealth across Scotland.

Councils need the money to build their own Direct Works teams for a massive social housing program, retrofitting homes with good insulation, and training people for secure, local jobs.

... **MORE CONTROL.** Like the Tories, the SNP are centralisers. Policing, cancer screening and health care, the courts, mental health, council financial responsibilities, Fire and Rescue, further education, NHS capital spends, plans for social care... the list goes on. And lurking behind centralisation is privatisation and cronyism.

Communists are for maximum trade union and community involvement in decision making. The people who do the work and receive the services know best!

... **AN ALTERNATIVE TO COUNCIL TAX.** That means local income, wealth, land and property taxes—based clearly on the ability to pay. One million Scots—one in four of them children—live in poverty. We will miss the April 2024 poverty reduction target. Replacing council tax is just one way to address poverty.

EDINBURGH NEEDS...

... **AN END TO THE DRUG DEATHS.** One goal—within our grasp—is a Safe Consumption Facility in Edinburgh. Scottish drug deaths are more than three times anywhere in Europe.

But drug deaths are just a symptom. Poor housing. Broken communities. Fractured education. No opportunities. Poverty. That's the bigger picture we have to change.

... **PROPER JOBS.** Too many jobs in Edinburgh are low paid, with no security, zero hours contracts, no rights and no training. Particularly for young people.

Any work the Council funds or approves must have proper pay, workers' rights from Day 1, no age discrimination and a proper future.

... **SOCIAL HOUSING.** Building and owning houses needs to be in Council hands, with a program for building more social housing.

In Edinburgh last year, 2,171 people applied to the Council as homeless. And 225 families applied for each of 1,291 local authority housing association homes up for letting! Often over 500 applied for one place! We need homes, not a rigged property market.

The Communist Party is the party with a plan for achieving a Socialist society. A society where people are rewarded according to their work. A society where everyone has their needs met. A society committed to everyone's full and free development.

Put a spark in the council! **Elect a Communist!**

Vote for **Richard Shillcock**. Edinburgh resident for four decades.

RICHARD SHILLCOCK
Communist Party
Leith Walk Ward

