



# **SCOTTISH PENSIONERS FORUM: MANIFESTO FOR SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2022**



**The Scottish Local Government Elections will take place on Thursday  
5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**You can vote in this election if you are registered to vote in Scotland  
and will be aged 16 years or over on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**You must also be either:**

**A British or Irish citizen**

**A Commonwealth, European Union citizen or any other foreign  
national who has permission to enter or remain in the UK, or who  
does not need such permission**

**SPF, CAMPAIGNING NOW TO SECURE YOUR FUTURE**

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[www.scottishpensioners.org.uk](http://www.scottishpensioners.org.uk)

## About Us

The Scottish Pensioners' Forum was set up in 1992 as an organisation for groups and individuals working and campaigning for a better deal for older people.

## Our Aim

To advance pensioners rights and welfare and to educate and unite Scottish pensioners, in order to provide a collective voice to Government and other authorities on issues affecting older people.

Pensioners are often assumed to be more economically secure in comparison to those of working age

They are often demonised and held responsible for much of the social inequality within our society due to their reliance on the state pension and other age-related concessions. In actual fact, pensioners, along with single parent families, continue to be the poorest groups within society.

The bulk of pensioner spending goes on such essentials as the cost of heating, food and clothing. The recent increase to the state pension, a meagre 3.1% in comparison to the cost-of-living level of approximately 8%, means that almost 64% of their income goes on basic essentials. Factor into this the costs of rent and council tax and there really isn't very much left over.

It is often conveniently forgotten that society benefits from the many contributions older people make as unpaid carers, whether in looking after children, grandchildren or spouses and their voluntary work within communities and other sectors of society.

There continues to be a real threat to public services but rather than conveniently blaming those most in need, we must acknowledge that the stark inequalities within society, which the last two years have only served to highlight, must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Local authorities must stop looking at soft targets by pitting young against old, workers against the unemployed and most importantly they must stop trying to deflect the blame away from the real social issues that blight our society.

What we at The Scottish Pensioners' Forum hope to secure is a fairer society, based on social justice and equality for all.

We believe that older people should be afforded the right to participate in, and contribute to, the decision-making process on issues affecting their lives at all levels.

Post pandemic recovery requires strong local authorities and participatory communities committed to ending ageism and discrimination in all its forms. Older people must not be forgotten in any recovery plan.

**This manifesto calls for all local authority candidates to support the concerns of older people, now and in the future.**

- **Safeguard the NHS and incoming National Care Service on a publicly funded basis**
- **Ensure that older people have access to food**  
Many older people are at risk of malnutrition due to their not having access to healthy and nutritious food which meets their needs. Many workers in care at home services are not being given sufficient time to deliver a full service to older people due to an excessive workload. Worker's rights, and older people's rights as service users, must be respected.
- **Ensure that the care workforce receive proper funding and training**  
In order to develop the time and skills needed in delivering a quality service for older people's social care needs, the care workforce should be offered training and be properly remunerated for their dedicated work
- **End discrimination against older people in the workplace**
- **Give older people representation, and voting rights, on Health and Social Care Integrated Joint Boards**
- **End the closure of public toilets**  
Accessibility to these essential services helps promote increased confidence in older and disabled people when going out and about
- **Prioritise local community initiatives to help combat loneliness and isolation**  
Re-open and retain public facilities, libraries etc. Offer free access to leisure and cultural facilities. All of these services are ones which older people rely heavily upon.
- **Older people have access to information in preferred formats**  
There is an ever-increasing push towards digital use however we must ensure that no one is being left behind. Access to training in digital services should be rolled out for older people.
- **Ensure digital exclusion does not deny any group full participation in any public consultation or commercial activity**

- **Investment in community transport**

Lack of services impacts people in urban areas but those living in rural communities are more greatly affected. Lack of services impacts greatly on social isolation and loneliness. Buses are a social service so regulation is important.

- **Dedicated funding to improve accessibility to transport for older and disabled people and their carers**

- **Positive initiatives to help combat loneliness and isolation for older people**

- **All footpaths should be accessible**

It is necessary that all local authorities implement the pavement parking ban. This would help safeguard vulnerable groups including older people, disabled people and children. Too much money is going into catering for vehicular traffic. Urban planning is considering this as a priority causing serious problems around schools and community buildings.

- **Ensure that adequate street lighting is prioritised to help safeguard vulnerable groups and promote community safety**

- **Ensure that the removal of potholes on the roads is prioritised to help safeguard vulnerable groups from harm**

- **End the abuse of advisory residential parking bays by making these enforceable**

- **Safe and affordable housing for older people, to suit all their needs**

- **Encourage the recycling of waste**

- **Remove uplift charges for waste**



**SCOTTISH PENSIONERS FORUM**  
**CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER DEAL FOR OLDER PEOPLE SINCE 1992**

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