

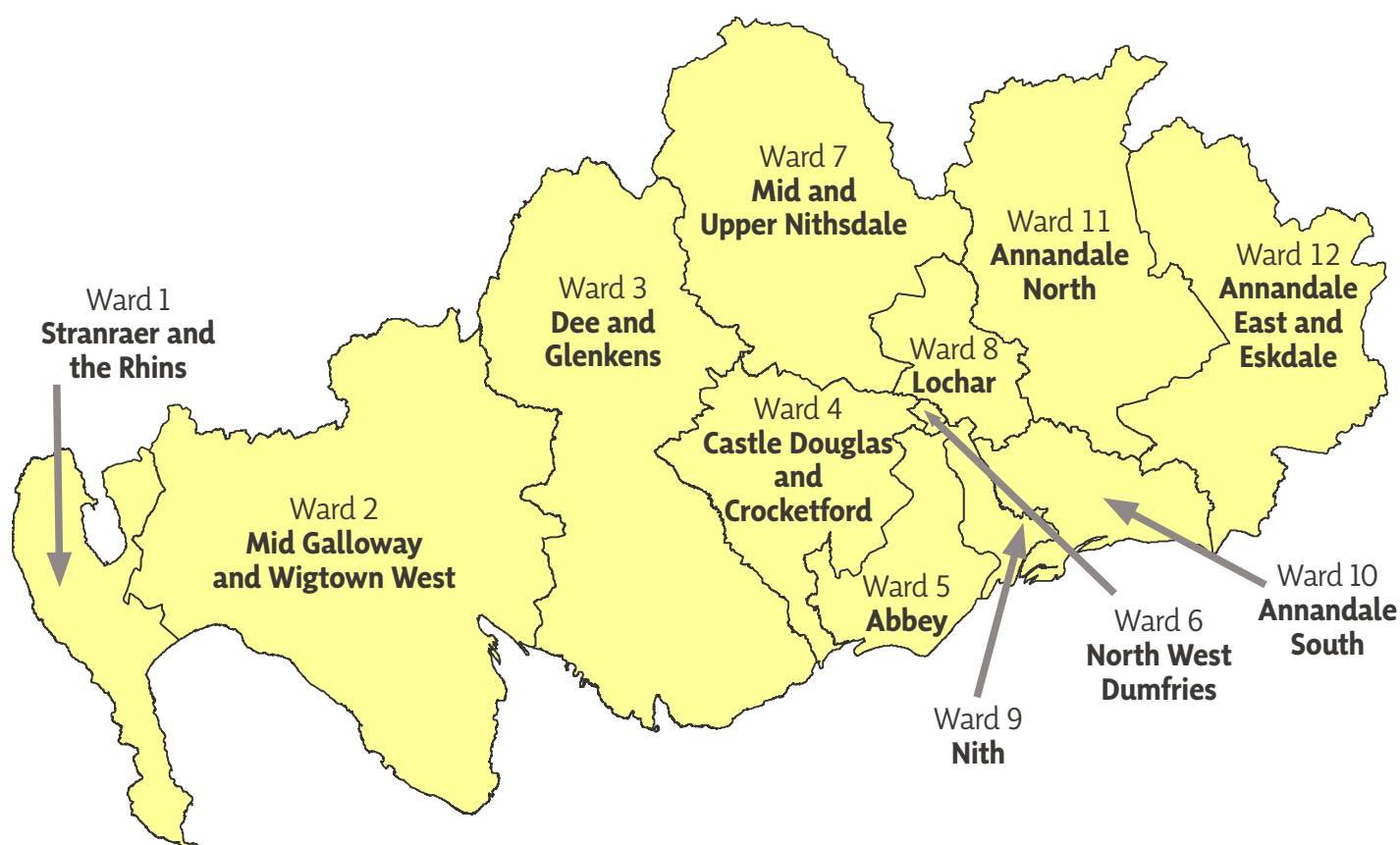
Dumfries & Galloway

**Local Government
2022 Manifesto**

5th May Vote

SNP 

Dumfries & Galloway Council



Anyone elected to represent Dumfries and Galloway has a big job to do. It's a big place full of diverse people, communities, and businesses, from east to west, all set within an attractive landscape that brings visitors from around the globe.



We know this region will play a vital role in Scotland's future, not just as the sea border to Ireland and land border to England, but as an important producer of sustainable renewable energy, and significant contributor to the dairy, and timber sectors nationally. We will support our key strategic industries along with the new enterprise agency dedicated to the South of Scotland now up and running, but we recognise that it is our local schools, businesses, and third sector, along with our health and social care services, that have the biggest impact on local lives, and Dumfries and Galloway Council has a major part to play.

So much relies on the infrastructure that supports the connections between people and families, communities and settlements, places of work, play and learning, and places worth visiting. Our manifesto sets out our ambition for this Council, our commitment to making our voice heard nationally, and our responsibility to act with integrity for the common



good. We are ready to take on the many challenges before us and to emerge stronger and more confident, after coming through a period of world history unlike anything experienced in our lifetime.

Our SNP candidates are standing ready in all 12 Council wards in this 2022 Election. Give them your vote on May 5th.

Stephen Thompson
SNP Depute Group Leader
Dumfries and Galloway Council

Our SNP candidates

Stranraer and the Rhins

Ward 1



**Ben
Dashper**

"I will push hard for a stronger approach to tackling our abandoned buildings and land problem — a significant step to breathing life back into our communities."

Mid Galloway and Wigtown West

Ward 2



**Katie
Hagmann**

"Our schools, local health care provision, family services and public transport are key to get us through the cost-of-living crisis. I will ensure these services are properly resourced."

Dee and Glenkens

Ward 3



**Andy
McFarlane**

"I will fight to improve local transport services, and seek opportunities to align school transport services to benefit communities."

Castle Douglas and Crocketford

Ward 4



**John
Young**

"I am committed to making Dumfries and Galloway a better and more successful place for my children, grandchildren and for everyone who calls this beautiful region their home."

Abbey

Ward 5



**Kim
Lowe**

"I am committed to promoting the principles of Community Empowerment, and I stand for giving YOU a voice in Dumfries and Galloway Council."

North West Dumfries

Ward 6



**Andy
Ferguson**

"I will work with local providers to recruit sufficient extra staff to alleviate the current shortage of workers in the care at home sector."

Our SNP candidates

Mid and Upper Nithsdale

Ward 7



Tony Berretti

"I will work for families & individuals by promoting Council policies to tackle poverty and support those suffering the most during the cost of living and fuel hardship crises."

Lochar

Ward 8



Tracey Little

"I will work with the Scottish Government and Scottish Land Commission to achieve a better approach to dealing with our region's vacant, abandoned and derelict buildings and land."

Nith

Ward 9



John Campbell

"I will prioritise Public Transport and Active Travel for better connectivity to benefit our wider rural region in taking forward the new Public Transport Model."

Annandale South

Ward 10



George Jamieson

"I will support the investment in local authority services to help those who are experiencing financial hardship caused by UK Government punitive welfare policies."

Annandale North

Ward 11



Stephen Thompson

"I will push for control of local parking enforcement to help businesses and visitors get better, safer access to our town centres."

Annandale East and Eskdale

Ward 12



Sylvia Willmot

"I will work with health & social care partners to create efficient, affordable medical appointment transportation so patients can be treated as close to home as possible."

On Recovery, Economy and Jobs, we will:

- Improve our region's tourist infrastructure to increase tourist numbers.
- Support, promote and celebrate the quality and diversity of our food producers, large and small, across our region.
- Promote Dumfries & Galloway as an excellent location in which to live, work, create and study.
- Ensure LDP3 offers a progressive planning framework which reflects the needs of all.
- Promote sustainable, affordable and green tourism opportunities.
- Support the designation of Cairnryan as one of Scotland's two Green Freeports to promote inward investment and fair work practices.

On Poverty, Social Justice and Equality, we will:

- Work with partners to reduce poverty by continuing to implement the region's anti-poverty strategy.
- Implement a fuel hardship payment for our most vulnerable families and citizens across the region.
- Explore the feasibility of funding driving lessons for those who require it for employment and other reasons.
- Continue to invest in local authority services to support families and individuals who are experiencing financial hardship caused by UK Government punitive welfare policies. We will help families and individuals access the support services they are entitled to receive.
- Continue to support the actions being taken by the Scottish Government to mitigate harsh UK Government welfare policies such as the bedroom tax.
- Support and expand the provision of free school meals including rolling out free school breakfasts to all pre-school and primary aged children

On Health, Social Care and Active Communities, we will:

- Continue to work with the Health and Social Care Partnership to develop and improve local services.
- Provide an additional 2000 hours weekly of social care to our most vulnerable residents each week by working with higher education partners, local care providers and the Health and Social Care Partnership to recruit 300 trainee social care workers over the next 5 years.
- Work with health and social care partners to create an efficient, affordable and practical mode of transport to and from medical appointments, thus ensuring patients receive treatment as close to home as possible.
- Invest in the Regional Core Path Network to create a Dumfries & Galloway Coastal Path, which will incorporate disabled access pathways, by committing 30% of the annual coastal benefit fund over the next 5 years.
- Standardise the policy on the siting of memorial benches across our region and ensure these public amenities are properly maintained.
- Work with local and national cycling interest groups to support, expand and maintain the Dumfries & Galloway cycling network.
- Work with Forestry and Land Scotland to promote access to the world class 7Stanes Mountain Biking centres across the region.

On Children, Education and Lifelong Learning, we will:

- Provide two teachers for rural schools with more than 19 pupils. This will improve stability and continuity for learners.
- Offer each school-leaver an independent exit survey to ensure the best educational experience for our learners.
- Review the school transport system to coordinate and align travel facilities with community needs and other transport initiatives.
- Implement the Scottish Government's commitment to offer free music tuition and encourage all school-aged learners to take advantage of the opportunity.
- Work with schools and teachers to ensure that tackling the climate emergency plays a crucial role in young people's education.
- Ensure educational opportunities are available that target the requirements of our region's workplaces, as well as national and international markets.
- Design a wraparound system which will provide childcare for both before and after school. Begin the early phasing in of community childcare for school-aged learners. Review how we deliver a new deal for private, community and voluntary service providers.
- Enhance youth services by promoting and supporting youth workers, school counselling and young persons' mental health services.
- Promote youth democracy through our Youth Council, ensuring young people are involved in decisions impacting their future.
- Work with road safety partners to encourage the participation of senior school pupils in driving and cycling safety programmes.

On Governance, we will:

- Work with the Scottish Government to improve broadband coverage, to maximise fibre connectivity throughout the region.
- Continue to expand the use of digital technology to reduce the carbon footprint of Councillors and Council staff travelling across the region

On housing, we will:

- Work with the Scottish Government and Scottish Land Commission to achieve a better approach to dealing with our region's vacant, abandoned and derelict buildings and land.
- We will engage with landlords and absentee landlords across the region to insist their buildings meet all safety standards.
- Work with registered social landlords and housing developers, to ensure green space which isn't publicly managed is maintained and effectively looked after.
- Ensure the Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3) makes provision for adequate health, social care and recreational facilities within large housing developments.
- Continue to work with social landlords and independent developers to meet the Scottish Government's target of building 100,000 homes across Scotland, including approximately £100m locally over the next 5 years.

To tackle the climate emergency, we will:

- Build on the work of the Council to ensure all policies aim to reduce our carbon footprint. We will work with businesses and community partners to support our journey to net zero.
- Work to promote and protect our region's rich biodiversity. We will encourage tree planting, protect native habitats, and support peatland regeneration.
- Expand recycling facilities and implement the Scottish Government's Deposit Return Scheme.
- Work to remove barriers to the development of renewable energy, and encourage inland, offshore and renewable generation projects across the region.
- Continue to work with local communities, the Scottish Government and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) to ensure local flood protection schemes are fit for purpose and have public approval. We will take action to limit coastal erosion.
- Establish a regional Climate Assembly to give residents a voice over the local authority's approach to tackling the climate emergency.

On Transport and Infrastructure, we will:

- Commit to a long-term improvement strategy on roads which are the responsibility of Dumfries and Galloway Council (trunk roads, like the A75 are not the responsibility of the local authority). This includes road, surfaces, footpaths and drainage.
- Commit to promoting active travel, including the region's walking, wheeling and cycling routes.
- Undertake a review of road safety issues in partnership with disability organisations to ensure our region meets the needs of all people with disabilities.
- Continue to roll-out 20MPH zones in appropriate areas to improve road safety.
- Improve the flow of traffic through our town centres on the grounds of safety to reduce road congestion and help improve air quality.
- Continue to develop electric vehicle charging point provision at suitable parking locations.
- Take control of local parking enforcement to help businesses and visitors get better, safer access to our town centres.
- Work with the Scottish Government to re-instate rail stops at Beattock, Thornhill and Eastriggs.
- Improve the attractiveness and reliability of local bus services. We will lobby, through SWESTRANS, for all the region's long distance bus services to have amenities similar to the X74 with toilets, Wi-Fi and comfortable seating.

On Community, we will:

- Commit to the Scottish Government's targets on participatory budgeting. This will increase public engagement in the way local services are planned and financed.
- Encourage a new programme of town twinning initiatives to enhance Dumfries & Galloway's international reputation.
- Continue to support and encourage Community Asset Transfers.
- Continue to seek to attract as many events to the region as possible, building on the success of regional, national and international events and festivals such as the Wigtown Book Festival, International Curling and Tour of Britain Cycling.
- Work on local solutions with the Scottish Government on the implementation of a national gull strategy.
- Work with interested parties and communities to take forward a pilot scheme of safe and segregated off-lead dog exercise parks to tackle problem dog fouling and promote responsible dog ownership.
- Promote and commit to the principles of community empowerment in accordance with Scottish Government legislation.
- Continue to support the regeneration of town centres.
- Work with resilience partners to offer unused Council premises for storage and use by community organisations.
- Set up a taskforce to look at dealing with our region's many demographic challenges.
- Utilise policy development funding to recruit graduates to work on the digitalisation of the Council's land ownership and title deeds. This information will serve the dual purposes of making the Council more efficient while also helping to update the National Register of Scotland.
- Support a feasibility study on the potential for the establishment of a Galloway National Park to protect our scenic landscape and natural marine environment.

Please vote

SNP

5th May

