



BRIEFING NOTE

Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2007

**party manifestos and built heritage:
a review of manifesto commitments**

Prepared by
Alex Adamson
Technical Officer

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The Tobacco Merchant's House
42 Miller Street
GLASGOW G1 1DT
sct@scottishcivictrust.org.uk



Briefing Note: Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2007 **Party Manifestos 2007 – built heritage**

Introduction

This briefing note has been prepared to assist organisations and individuals who are interested in Scotland's built heritage. It analyses the main political party's manifesto statements to see what commitments are being made with regard to heritage.

The methodology was to search through PDF versions of the manifestos using the following key words – “heritage”, “historic”, “built”, “planning” and “culture”. The results are to be found below.

The information below has been prepared to assist in comparing the policies and commitments of the main political parties in Scotland in the run up to the Scottish Parliamentary elections on 3 May 2007. The Scottish Civic Trust is a charity registered in Scotland (SCO12569). As such, we are apolitical in nature, and offer no view on the nature or content of these manifesto statements.

Scottish Labour Party

P22

Set up a new Town Centre Turnaround Fund. It will be administered like the land fund so local communities can take ownership of derelict or rundown properties or land to refurbish or turn into new safe green space. It will refocus derelict building and contamination land funds, Lottery funds, and historic and townscape heritage funds, to pump more investment into Scotland's small towns.

P82

Focus on the protection of our industrial heritage as an aspect of regeneration while securing environmental improvement.

P91

Our vision is of a confident and vibrant Scotland – a Scotland which is proud of its beautiful surroundings and rich history, but which also embraces the opportunities presented by change.

P94

Scottish Labour will celebrate and conserve Scotland's built heritage as well as our world-famous landscapes, and will modernise legislation in this area if required.

P94

We will continue to ensure that the skills required to maintain our historic buildings – such as stonemasonry – are available in Scotland, by supporting the projects that ensure their survival, in particular training. We will ensure that owners of listed buildings keep them in proper repair, and ensure that the wider community interest is taken into account

Scottish Green Party

P3

Greens have consistently made the case for a fairer approach to planning and we will evaluate the Planning Act with the aim of giving communities more say. We maintain that communities should have the right to appeal against planning decisions. We will give community groups access to an Environmental Justice Fund of at least £2 million per year to support them in initiating community improvements and responding to threats.

P5

Planning processes must check that new developments such as supermarkets do not undermine local economies.

Scottish National Party

P52

Scottish history, culture and heritage will be embedded in school life to provide a Scottish world view. This will include the teaching of enterprise skills.

P57

Safeguarding our heritage - Current legislation on built heritage is complex and piece-meal, with significant gaps. For example, there is no statutory protection for battlefield sites in Scotland. An SNP government will conduct a full review and consultation on the legislation covering heritage protection, with a view to bringing forward a Heritage Bill in the next session of Parliament. We will reduce duplication by merging the 'Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland' into 'Historic Scotland'.

Scottish Liberal Democratic Party

P78

We will create a **right in local communities to require the establishment of a Burgh Council, Community Trust or similar body in their local area**. In Scotland we have a long history of recognising the common good of shared public spaces and buildings for communities. Yet the stewardship of common good funds has frequently been unsatisfactory and unaccountable. I want to **see a new Common Good Act**, to regulate, protect and modernise the framework for land, property or funds to be held in trust for the local community, and allowing the revitalisation of common good funds where local people can have access to money to regenerate local communities and spaces. This form of community funding could play a real role in empowering local communities and could provide a new outlet for the next generation of benefactors and social entrepreneurs, as well as a mechanism for supporting the voluntary sector more effectively.

P85

We will ensure that the Enterprise Networks and VisitScotland support business to develop new visitor experiences and niche markets reflecting our strengths as a destination for golf, outdoor activities, landscape, culture and heritage.

P85

As part of our efforts to promote, celebrate and enhance our culture and heritage and build on our reputation as an excellent tourism destination, we will continue to **promote measures to protect our historic environment**, carrying through on the recently published Scottish Historic Environment Policy guidance and completing an audit of our historic environment.

Scottish Conservative Party

No references

Scottish Socialist Party

P32

A national project aiming to transform the drab appearance of our towns and housing schemes through murals, ornamental gardens, sculpture, fountains, monuments, mazes, performance areas, and architectural restoration.

Solidarity Scotland

No references

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