

51 Local government

A Local election manifesto

Independent party **manifesto** for the local **council** elections. We will:

- **stand up for** the community and speak **on behalf of residents** on **green** issues.
- **take** complaints **seriously** and **give** neighbourhoods **a say** in local decisions.
- **allocate** better funding for youth projects and **ensure** they are properly managed.
- provide **grants** for **voluntary** organizations that help with the elderly and disabled.

GLOSSARY

manifesto	a written statement by a political party saying what they believe in and what they intend to do	take sth/sb seriously	think that sth/sb is important and deserves respect
council	the organization that provides local government in a city or area. A councillor is an elected member of the council.	say	the right to give your opinion before a decision is made: give sb a say ; have a say in sth
stand up for sth/sb	support or defend sth/sb SYN stick up for sb inf	allocate sth (to sb/sth) (for sth)	give sth officially to sb/sth for a particular purpose
on behalf of sb / on sb's behalf	as the representative of sb; in order to help sb	ensure	make sure that sth happens or is definite
resident	a person who lives in a particular place. A citizen also means a person with the legal right to belong to a particular country.	grant	a sum of money given, often by the government, for a particular purpose (of work) done by people (called volunteers) who choose to do it without being paid. The voluntary sector refers to charity organizations.
green	connected with protecting the environment	voluntary	

1 Complete the words.

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 r _ _ s _ _ d _ _ nt | 4 co _ _ nc _ _ l | 7 c _ _ _ n _ _ ll _ _ r |
| 2 _ _ ns _ _ r _ _ | 5 _ _ ll _ _ c _ _ te | 8 v _ _ l _ _ _ t _ _ _ r |
| 3 v _ _ l _ _ nt _ _ ry | 6 m _ _ n _ _ f _ _ _ t _ _ | |

2 One word is incorrect in each sentence. Cross it out and write the correct word at the end.

- I've read the manifest and didn't agree with any of it.
- They should have a say to what happens in our city.
- Do you think the councillors will make our ideas seriously?
- My sister's done a lot of work for the volunteer sector.
- She spoke on behalf for all of us.
- They should stand out for people who don't have a say.
- We must assure that the councillors keep their promise.
- The council are giving us a grand to help with the work.

3 Complete the sentences.

- There are no local _____ in my town willing to speak on my _____.
- We don't have paid staff. We rely solely on _____ and the voluntary _____.
- I don't really feel I _____ a say in local politics.
- Local politicians should _____ up for people and _____ their ideas seriously.
- Do you think you can get a _____ from the council to make your home greener?
- Christian has been a _____ in the UK for ten years, but he remains a Danish _____ with a Danish passport.
- We need to take _____ issues more seriously if we are really concerned about the planet.
- We can't touch the money: it has already been _____ to social services.
- Local government has to _____ that accurate records are kept of all expenditure.
- The _____ takes all complaints very seriously.



TEST YOURSELF

B The role of the mayor

THE MAYOR OF LONDON is elected by any Londoners **eligible** to vote, and has quite a **high profile**. The mayor is the capital's **spokesperson** with a range of powers and duties. He or she **sets** the annual **budget** for the Greater London Authority, and plays a key role in the running and **funding** of various projects. The mayor **heads** the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime who provide **policing** in the capital. The mayor also **chairs** Transport for London, and sits on various **committees**.



GLOSSARY

mayor	the most important chosen or elected official in a town or city
eligible	allowed by rules or laws to do or receive sth OPP ineligible
high profile	Sb/sth with a high profile gets attention and is easily noticed.
spokesperson	sb who speaks on behalf of a group or an organization
budget	the amount of money a person or an organization has to spend on sth: set the budget (= decide what the budget should be)
authority	the people or an organization who have the power to make decision or who have a particular area of responsibility
funding	money for a particular purpose
head	lead or be in charge of sth, e.g. a department or an organization head n
policing	the activity of keeping order in a place with police police v
chair	be in charge of a meeting: chair a meeting (see spotlight)
committee	a group of people who are chosen to make decisions or deal with a particular subject: a committee meeting; sit on a committee

SPOTLIGHT gender and people nouns

These titles can be used about a man or a woman.

- **chair/chairperson/chairman**
- **spokesperson/spokesman**
- **mayor**

The titles of **chairwoman**, **spokeswoman** and **mayoress** are also used but only refer to a woman.

4 Circle the words which are possible. One, two or three words may be possible.

- The *budget* / *mayor* / *funding* is not sufficient.
- The *committee* / *authorities* / *policing* have the power to change the rules.
- My uncle is the *spokesperson* / *mayoress* / *chairman*.
- The town has a high *profit* / *policing* / *profile*.
- David Tomkins is the *chairman* / *chairperson* / *chair* of the transport committee.
- We heard the *spokesperson* / *spokesman* / *mayoress* making a statement to the press.
- He's the new *mayor* / *budget* / *head*.
- She *chairs* / *sits on* / *sets* the committee.

5 Complete the sentences with a suitable word.

- We need a large force to the city.
- People under 21 are to vote.
- Mrs Bryant will the meeting.
- He was reported to the immigration
- She sets the annual
- I sit on a number of
- He was elected last year.
- She the department.
- It's a very high- job.
- We need more for medical research.

6 ABOUT YOUR TOWN/CITY Write your answers, or ask another student.

Do you have a mayor? If so, are they elected or appointed?

Is it a high-profile job?

Do you know what their duties are?



TEST YOURSELF