

# 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

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

### 1 Complete the words.

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.

1 I've read the manifest and didn't agree with any of it.

.....

2 They should have a say to what happens in our city.

.....

3 Do you think the councillors will make our ideas seriously?

.....

4 My sister's done a lot of work for the volunteer sector.

.....

5 She spoke on behalf for all of us.

.....

6 They should stand out for people who don't have a say.

.....

7 We must assure that the councillors keep their promise.

.....

8 The council are giving us a grand to help with the work.

.....

### 3 Complete the sentences.

1 There are no local ..... in my town willing to speak on my .....

2 We don't have paid staff. We rely solely on ..... and the voluntary .....

3 I don't really feel I ..... a say in local politics.

4 Local politicians should ..... up for people and ..... their ideas seriously.

5 Do you think you can get a ..... from the council to make your home greener?

6 Christian has been a ..... in the UK for ten years, but he remains a Danish ..... with a Danish passport.

7 We need to take ..... issues more seriously if we are really concerned about the planet.

8 We can't touch the money: it has already been ..... to social services.

9 Local government has to ..... that accurate records are kept of all expenditure.

10 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

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

### 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.

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

#### 5 Complete the sentences with a suitable word.

- 1 We need a large force to ..... the city.
- 2 People under 21 are ..... to vote.
- 3 Mrs Bryant will ..... the meeting.
- 4 He was reported to the immigration ..... .
- 5 She sets the annual ..... .
- 6 I sit on a number of ..... .
- 7 He was elected ..... last year.
- 8 She ..... the department.
- 9 It's a very high- ..... job.
- 10 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