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

1 Complete the words.

1 r___s___d___nt
2 ___ns___r___
3 v___l___nt___ry
4 co___nc___l
5 ___ll___c___te
6 m___n___f___t___
7 c___n___ll___r
8 v___l___t___r

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 and 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.

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? .....

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LIVEWORKSHEETS