

# Edinburgh Third Sector Manifesto for Council Elections 2012

Addressing Inequalities  
**Sustainability**  
Social Justice  
Community Benefit

Be innovative, think outside the box

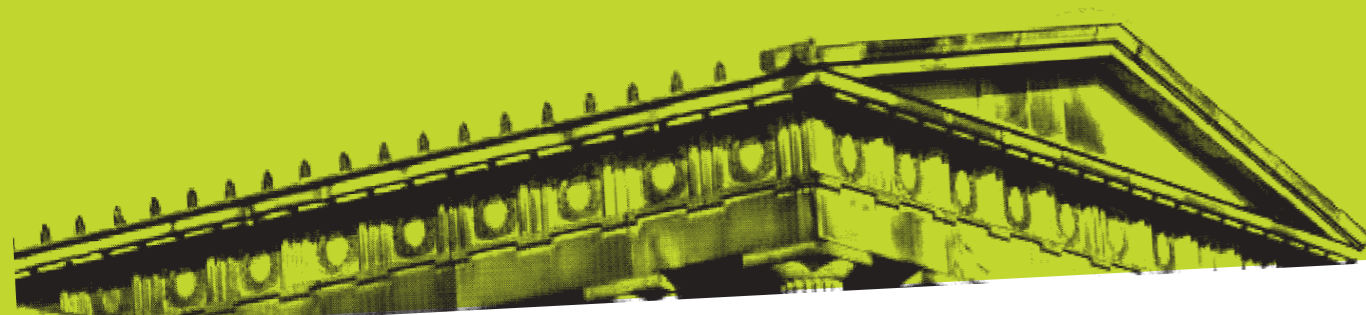
**Make** Co-Production the Norm

**Ensure** incoming Councillors have a good understanding of the Third Sector - as part of their induction

**Consider** the real potential of Social Impact Bonds

**Use** Council Buildings more Effectively - Consider Asset Transfers Seriously

**Set up** a Petitions Process for Local Government



The Edinburgh Third Sector Interface is a strategic and operational partnership of ESEN, EVOC and VCE;

- Supporting and developing a strong Third Sector
- Volunteer Development
- Social Enterprise Development
- Building the Third Sector relationship with Community Planning



Edinburgh  
**Vital**  
Trust  
Value  
Essential  
Driven  
Effective  
Responsive

# Edinburgh Third Sector Manifesto for Council Elections 2012

Co-Production

Edinburgh's Third Sector is:

**Essential** to citizens' Health and Well-Being

**Driven** by the desire to co-create a Just Society

**Rooted** in communities and Responsive to Need

**Expert** in Prevention, Early Intervention and Innovation

**A Voice** for people and communities which are least heard

**Vital** to the city's Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability



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# The Context we are in the Issues we Face

**Edinburgh** is a welcoming city with a proud social, cultural and political history. The Capital has a rich tradition of community activism, philanthropy and volunteering.

**Edinburgh** also has deep inequalities and huge social divides. As the economic downturn bites deeper and we feel the damaging impacts of welfare reform, the Third Sector is needed more than ever.

**Edinburgh** has a vibrant and diverse Third Sector including: about 2000 voluntary organisations, thousands of individual volunteers, hundreds of active social entrepreneurs and a hugely talented and committed workforce.

Motivated by the desire to bring about positive change, 29% of the city's population volunteer.

We are a significant employer, providing a wealth of services. These include: care for older people and for people with disabilities; youth work; arts, sports & culture; environmental sustainability; and community development.

## The Sector plays a vital role in shaping a strong, sustainable and resilient Civil Society within Edinburgh.

Today the Capital faces resource pressures just as demand is growing. It is the most vulnerable citizens, and those least often heard, who will suffer the most. Inequalities are increasing as more and more people now face the reality of reducing incomes and increasing costs. People who have never before sought support are now at risk of homelessness, fuel and food poverty and unemployment. Young people are not able to realise their potential and too many leave education without a positive destination. Older people are increasingly isolated. Families which have struggled on are now fracturing under the increasing stress and pressure.

**No single agency or sector will be able to respond to these pressures on its own, but together, with concerted effort, we can work to build a more just society - a society of which we can all be proud.**



# Challenges for the Candidates

**Be bold.** You must provide the leadership, loyalty and creativity which Edinburgh's citizens and communities deserve. Think beyond the economic bottom line. Design and commission services for community benefit.

**Put addressing inequalities front and centre of all your policies and strategies.** Meaningfully consider the broader Social Impacts of your actions and decisions.

**Trust the Third Sector's knowledge, skills and ability** to work with and understand the needs and capacities of the most vulnerable people and deprived communities in Edinburgh.

**Be true to the spirit and reality of Co-Production** — engage in equal and respectful, trusting and purposeful relationships with the Third Sector and with citizens.

**Focus on increasing fair employment for all** — Short-term work on poverty pay helps no-one.

**Consider the limits of competitive tendering**, and the unintended consequences of short-term funding. Commit to three-year funding.

Addressing Inequalities  
Driven Edinburgh  
Trust Essential  
Vital  
Effective Co-Production  
Value Responsive  
Community Benefit  
Sustainability  
Social Justice

## The Third Sector will

**Engage** in Partnership Equally and Respectfully in the spirit of Co-Production to build Social Value; and **Maintain** a clear focus on the need to address inequalities and to work for social justice - building on our reputation for being creative problem-solvers.

