

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

October
2017

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



Our Vision for the Coming Year



In September, the First Minister introduced a bold and ambitious Programme for Government for the coming year.

The bill coming before the Scottish Parliament will develop the opportunities of the low carbon

revolution, invest in future economic growth, and improve the lives of all our young people.

There are plans for a Scottish National Investment bank to target investment in economic growth, a publicly-owned energy company, as well as phasing out the need for petrol and diesel vehicles by 2032.

An education bill will be at the heart of the programme, part of the SNP commitment to closing the poverty-related attainment gap but there will also be a review of local democracy and major reforms in health and justice.

The Scottish Government will also be rolling out its own social security powers as part of a package of measures to tackle inequality, child poverty, and end rough sleeping, extending free personal care to those under 65 who need it ("Frank's Law"), and doubling the provision of free childcare. It will also establish a £50 million fund to tackle child poverty, provide access to free sanitary products to students in schools, colleges and universities as part of the work on period poverty, and create a £10 million a year "Ending Homelessness Together" fund to help tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

It is a very full programme including 16 new pieces of legislation. You can read the full programme at <https://programmeforgovernment.scot/>

Commenting, Gordon said, "Despite the limited powers of the Scottish Parliament, this programme of legislation is fresh, bold and ambitious for Scotland. The programme is about equipping Scotland, not just for the next year, but for the next decade and beyond."

Aircraft Noise Consultation



The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) are currently consulting on the impact of aircraft noise. This consultation ends on the 5th January 2018.

The consultation aims to hear from those affected by aircraft noise in order to gain a better understanding of the concerns of local residents.

The responses will allow the CAA to better define a work programme to improve noise in the coming years.

If opinions identify important concerns that require more power, this will be explained when a response is published.

If you wish to submit your views and experiences visit: -

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/aviation-noise-impacts>

Out and About...

Local Lottery Winners



LOTTERY FUNDED

Many local groups have benefited recently from awards from the Big Lottery Fund. So far this year, over £2 million have been awarded in the Edinburgh South West area.

Commenting, Gordon Macdonald noted, *"There is funding available for groups and organisations to apply for and I would encourage members of such groups to consider this as a potential source of funding."*

Broomhouse Community Hub were awarded £1.2 million to renovate the Broomhouse Centre. An extension will increase the social enterprise cafe space, extend the kitchen and food preparation area and increase meeting space for a range of community groups and services.

WHALE Arts were awarded £148,766 to offer an array of creative activities for people living in the Wester Hailes area.

Other grants have gone to the One Stop Shop (£85,181), St Cuthberts Primary After School Hub (£9,960), Wellbeing through Volunteering (£9,732), and Clovenstone Education Centre (£8,685).

Action on Hearing Loss



Gordon is backing charity Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's *Moving On* service which offers support for young deaf people in Edinburgh Pentlands to fulfil their training or employment aspirations.

Moving On supports young deaf or hard of hearing people aged 16-25 into employment, training and education opportunities.

Gordon praised the organisation, saying *"Their Employment Advisers, who can all sign, provide specialist support to build the confidence of clients as well as giving invaluable practical advice and interview training."*

Gordon is in the Pink



Gordon pulled on some eye-catching pink clothes at the Scottish Parliament event to encourage constituents to take part in the UK's biggest, brightest and pinkest fundraiser, "Wear it Pink", on Friday 20 October for Breast Cancer Now.

Commenting, Gordon said, *"The objective is to ensure that by 2050, everyone who develops breast cancer will survive. In their 16 years they have raised a staggering £30 million — anyone can take part, all you have to do is wear something pink and donate what you can."*

Contact Details

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Gordon Macdonald MSP



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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

- 1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library
- 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre
- 3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library
- 4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfangs Library
- 5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands