

Amy McNeese-Mechan

Scottish National Party



Born in Portland, Oregon, to a medical doctor and a journalist, I've lived, worked and travelled around the world, including Japan, the U.S., Puerto Rico, with long periods in India, Indonesia, Mexico and Italy. I worked for the Japanese Government's Foreign Ministry in Chicago, and for its Ministry of Education in Osaka, Japan. I came to Scotland to further my education at the University of Edinburgh, attaining an M.Sc. with Distinction from the School of Political & Social Sciences and then a doctorate. Like Deidre Brock, I settled here in Leith over 20 years ago because I fell in love with its unique character, its proud heritage as a working port, and its welcoming and international Outlook.

I'm an active trade unionist, having been elected as Vice-Convenor of PCS while working for the Scottish Government environmental agency SNH. I'm now International Relations Officer for Unison City of Edinburgh branch, as well as a member of Unison's Scottish Women's Committee. I'm Women's & Equalities Officer for Edinburgh City Association SNP council liaison group as well as Leith Walk Branch Political Education Officer. I'm committed to lifelong learning opportunities, both for all of us as individuals, and for our community, because an informed public is vital for democracy. As such I pledge to keep residents fully informed with regular updates on the work your council is doing, as well as open and accessible surgeries.

Women are the most impacted by 'austerity measures'; an estimated 70% of cuts has directly hit women's pockets. One of the main reasons for this is that women rely on public sector support to help them in their roles as carers. Because women also spend most of their money locally, every cut to their income means another cut to local shops and businesses. Studies also show that a mother's poverty affects her children's chances in life as well – it's obvious that a mum struggling to feed her kids will have less time and energy to read to them, for example. A woman's poverty therefore doesn't just stop at the individual – it is the family, the community, and the future that suffer. For all of these reasons I will always fight to protect our public services and the people who deliver them. I will fight for our schools, our libraries, and our nursery spaces and the fantastic and committed staff who are out there working for us every day.

Healthy communities need more than jobs and services, though. We need clean streets with sound paving, and green and inviting open spaces. We need community centres to gather in, and local businesses delivering services locally. I will prioritise waste management, improvement to streetscapes which benefit residents and local businesses alike, and community say in urban greening projects.

We need good local jobs, but also good genuinely affordable local housing so that our young people can remain in the community they grew up in, families can grow in the community, and our elderly stay in the community they call home. I will continue the SNP's successful programme to deliver more social housing. We have two SNP candidates in Leith Walk ward, so please look at the leaflet coming through your door and give your 1 st & 2nd preferences as shown, for a fairer, cleaner and greener Leith Walk.

This text was supplied to Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) by the candidate, unedited.

For more info on what LCCC does, please visit leithcentralcc.co.uk and keep checking this notice-board for more updates and events.

