

## News Release

Embargoed until: 00.01 on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2012

### **LINK calls for details of party manifestos for the local elections**

Scottish Environment LINK today called for a clarification from our political parties as to when manifestos for the local elections will be published. Enquiries have revealed that the parties are all relying on their local organisations in each of the 32 Council areas to publish manifestos, but very little information is available as to when these will be ready for publication – if at all.

Calling for greater transparency, Maggie Keegan, Convener of LINK's Local Governance Taskforce said: **"We have made every effort to assist the parties in ensuring that environmental concerns are fully addressed as they draw up their policy proposals for local government. Now we find what looks to be a very patchy response, and we are left wondering how many voters in Scotland will have any means of finding out exactly what policies they will be voting for on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We urge all the parties to make their policy plans both clear and readily available to the electorate."**

In November LINK published 'Acting Locally' as their manifesto for the local elections 2012, and sent copies to all the parties to assist with their manifesto preparation. Local Councils have huge responsibility for managing the environment in their areas, making decisions on issues such as planning, transport, land use, health & wellbeing, education and many others with important environmental implications.

Ends

#### **Contact details**

For more information please contact Andy Myles on 0131 225 4345 or 07834 485 760

#### **Editors' Notes**

(1) Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. LINK has over 30 member organisations spanning interests across the natural environment and associated cultural heritage and supported by around 500,000 people. Further information on LINK is available at [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

(2) Copies of Acting Locally are available at:

<http://www.scotlink.org/files/publication/LINKReports/LINKActingLocally2012.pdf>

The document followed up on work undertaken over several years to improve the environmental content of Single Outcome Agreements between each of the Councils and the Scottish Government.