

# [Our action to end homelessness](#)

Scotland's homelessness legislation is amongst the most progressive in the world. We have made huge progress in tackling homelessness, but we are aware of worrying signs of an increase in rough sleeping.

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## [Weekly Road Report – West End Ward](#) [#dundeewestend](#)



**DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL – WEEKLY ROAD REPORT**

### **REPORT FOR WEST END WARD – WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 7 MAY 2018**

South Union Street/South Marketgait at Dundee Railway Station – northbound nearside lane closure from 9.30am for one week for footway works.

Perth Road (at West Park Road) – temporary traffic lights until mid week for gas main repair.

Lochee Road (at Tullideph Road) – temporary traffic lights until Monday 7 May for Scottish Water mains repair.

Blackness Road (at Bellfield Street) – off-peak temporary traffic lights on Friday 11 May for BT cabling works.

Riverside Drive (at Tesco) – eastbound convoy system on Sunday 13 May for Scottish Water manhole repair.

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## Germany and China celebrate Marx's 200th birthday

Germany accepted the gift of a large statue to Marx from China to commemorate 200 years since Marx's birth. Their were very mixed views in Germany we read about accepting this gift, and even more mixed views of the legacy of the political philosopher.

There is no doubt of his influence. Some of the teachers and lecturers I heard were heavily influenced by what they thought Marx had said, though most of them also thought you could adapt Marxism to a social democrat framework. They were not normally willing to defend Marxism as practised in the USSR at the time. I read some of Marx's works to find out how a long dead intellectual could cast such a shadow over societies that we ended up

with the tyrannies of Marxist states. They were all much poorer than the west, and so obviously lacked the personal freedoms we took for granted.

One of my earlier political publications was a rebuttal of the Communist party Manifesto. That slim document was far more influential than Das Capital, as it was so much more accessible, with a strong ten point political programme which informed the ultra socialist agendas of Marxist revolutionaries and tyrants around the world. The irony of the document was that its central attack on inequality and privilege led directly to a worse kind of privilege, the privilege that accrued to the political leaders of communist states and to communist party members which was then enforced with violence against anyone who questioned their rule.

So I wrote the Popular Capitalist Manifesto. It proposed doing the opposite in nine of the ten policies recommended by Marx. The one I agreed with was universal free education with no child factory labour..

To remind you what Marx proposed:

The abolition of all private property

A heavy progressive income tax

The abolition of all inheritance rights

Confiscation of all property of rebels and emigrants

A monopoly state bank

Centralisation of all transport and communications in state hands

Wholesale nationalisation of means of production and state planned farming

Establishment of industrial armies with equal requirement of all to labour

Shift of people into towns with erosion of distinction between town and country

Free education for all with abolition of child factory labour

In a future post I will set out my alternative to this Manifesto.

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## [The local election results](#)

After all the hype Labour failed to break through in the local elections. It continues to suffer outside London from its ambivalent stance towards Brexit. In London it did get a further small swing and is well in the lead in votes, Councillors and Councils. There its trimming away from its pro Brexit

stance in the 2017 election probably helped a little, particularly with the EU nationals who vote in local but not in national elections. Much of the UKIP vote went Conservative.

Overall Conservatives won control of four Councils and lost control of six, whilst Labour lost control of 2 and gained control of 3. Both main parties got 35% of the vote on the national projections , with Lib Dems rising from their 10% at the General election to 16% in the locals.

The message for the government is clear. People want them to get on with it and see Brexit through quickly and cleanly. That means taking back control of our borders, our money, our laws, our fish and our trade policy. There is little sympathy for the Remain led cries from the Lords and even from within government to delay, to recreate much of the EU we are leaving, to seek such a comprehensive partnership that we are left paying them money and accepting their laws. A majority of the public does not believe Project Fear and does not think trade will be damaged if we do not accept the EU's terms for a deal.

I found on the doorsteps a refreshing interest in local issues and local concerns, with a good conversation about development, the state of the roads, and housing. Here the incumbents of both parties had to fight to persuade people they are doing a good enough job. Very few Councils changed hands, meaning the benefit of the doubt went to most Councils struggling with these difficult matters.