

# Robert Brown MSP

## MAKING THE DIFFERENCE IN GLASGOW REGION IN 2007-8



### The Commonwealth Games and Opportunities for Young People

The 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games adds enormous punch and potential to the growing opportunities for young people, according to Robert Brown MSP.

The Glasgow Region MSP has been pressing the Government to make sure that there are lasting benefits from the "Friendly Games" to local sports and youth clubs across the greater Glasgow area. Robert, himself a former Deputy Education Minister, is the Convener of the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People in the Scottish Parliament and a keen campaigner for widened opportunities for all young people.

*Robert Brown said:* "Young people are our future, and there are some great things happening in schools and youth organisations. Now, the graduate endowment charge for students is being abolished, and the Scottish Government has caved in to demands for more University funding with additional funding of £30 million."

"Pressure on housing is also hitting students hard. I am keen to see more provision for affordable student housing, and particularly a mandatory tenancy deposit scheme to protect students and other tenants from unscrupulous landlords unreasonably hanging on to their deposits."



Robert Brown MSP with Scout leader and Mount Everest victor Carrie Gibson at the Scottish Parliament debate and Reception organised by Robert on the Centenary of Scouting.



Robert Brown MSP presents medals at the Special Olympics in Glasgow - the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games will be great for young people.



Dear Residents,

2007/ 2008 has been a busy time for Glasgow and South Lanarkshire. With the local Council and Scottish Parliament elections it has been a time of change and adjustment for all politicians.

Glasgow received the exciting news that we had been successful in our Commonwealth games bid which will hopefully benefit the whole of Scotland.

It is a huge privilege to represent the area in the Scottish Parliament and to see the huge effort put in by so many people in voluntary organisations and the public services to make our local communities better places to live.

Best wishes

Robert Brown MSP

### Make Room for Autism!

Robert Brown has been heavily involved in the campaign to provide more and better services for children with autism.

- In the Rutherglen and Cambuslang area, Robert is backing demands by local parents for a Primary Autism Unit in the area
- In the east end of Glasgow, parents seeking support for out of school club facilities are being backed by Robert in their campaign.

*Robert Brown said:*

"Young people on the autistic spectrum need good school facilities and out of hours provision in their local area. It is quite wrong that vulnerable children should have to travel to other areas for their education or indeed their leisure, which both lengthens the school day for them and loses contact with their friends."

### Making the Difference for our Parks and Greenspaces

Over the last year, Robert has joined high profile campaigns to save the **Botanic Gardens** from a nightclub development, parks in Broomhill and Pollokshields from controversial building works, and now Pollok Park from the unsuitable "Go Ape" proposals now going to Scottish Ministers.



Robert meets Glasgow allotments campaigners.

Robert has also continued to back allotments campaigners in supporting and expanding local allotment provision - with all the benefits of school links, fresh and seasonal food and outdoor activity which go with them.

*Robert said:* "Cities and built up areas need the "green lungs" provided by parks, greenspace and allotments which provide recreation space for children and families to enjoy. Developers cannot be allowed to build houses everywhere if it reduces the amenity of the area."

"With waiting lists of up to eight years, it's clear that there is a demand for allotments. We need a national allotments strategy."

### Campaigning for People Soaring fuel bills hit poorest hardest

Robert has called for action to tackle rising fuel prices which have hit pensioners and people on low incomes particularly hard. Speaking in Parliament, he called on the Government to work with fuel companies to get rid of high-priced prepayment meters and install smart metering as soon as possible.

Robert also wants gas and electricity companies to provide an ongoing service to elderly customers to make sure that they get the best out of their central heating systems.

*Robert said:*

"The free central heating scheme has been a great boost but many elderly people are not shown how to operate their systems efficiently, which means they end up with very high bills or in some cases, do not use their heaters at all."



Robert Brown met MacMillan campaigners in Argyll Street calling for better cancer care and prevention.

### School Clothing Grant Review

A review of the school clothing grant has been announced by the Government after Glasgow MSP Robert Brown lodged a motion in Parliament and quizzed Ministers on why the grant - used to help low income parents buy school uniforms and shoes - remains at around £50 only with unexplained variations across Scotland.

#### Contact Robert Brown MSP- Write to:

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Local Advice surgeries are held by appointment at:

Constituency Office, Glasgow	1st Friday of month, 4pm
Hillhead Library, Byres Road	2nd Friday of month, 4pm
Constituency Office, Glasgow	3rd Friday of month, 4pm
Royal Burgh House, Rutherglen	4th Friday of month, 4pm