

2 September 2008 - New Role for Tolson

Jim Tolson, Dunfermline West MSP has been appointed to the post of Deputy Spokesperson on Local Government & Transport in the new Lib Dem leader Tavish Scott's reshuffle. Jim will work under Alison McInnes, Spokesperson on Local Government & Transport.

Jim said "As a Dunfermline Councillor for many years I have a strong interest and commitment to Local Government. The Scottish Government's commitment to Local Government is welcomed but part of my job will be to ensure they do not renege on their commitments or put undue pressure on them to meet government targets without adequate resources to do so.

Transport is a critically important issue in West Fife and throughout Scotland. I am looking forward to the challenges my new responsibilities will bring. An expanding and vibrant economy depends on a reliable transport infrastructure and a modern public transport system. As we face the difficulties of an economic downturn, it is important to ensure the Scottish Government delivers on their various infrastructure commitments so that when the economy does improve there will be sufficient capacity in the system to get people and goods to their destinations. It is also important that the Government works with public transport providers to improve bus and rail provision. I will be working hard with Alison McInnes to ensure the Government does this.

I will also be meeting many organisations in the local Government and Transport sectors to learn more about their concerns and help where possible to find solutions. One of the first such visits is likely to be to Edinburgh Airport to talk about the BAA dispersal and a further access road. I'm sure the visit will include a visit to the Control Tower to see how the operation comes together."