



Mid Scotland and Fife needs change

Mid Scotland and Fife with its rich history, beautiful landscapes, and thriving communities, is overflowing with huge potential, but after 20 years of SNP government too many people across the region are being held back.

It's time for change.

Scottish Labour has a plan to fix the mess, get the basics right and build a better future for everyone in Mid Scotland and Fife.

Making life more affordable

Scottish Labour will help people keep more of their own money in their pocket and keep everyday costs down by:

- ✔ **Committing to no income tax rate rises** for five years, with the ambition to lower taxes as we get the economy growing.
- ✔ **Widening eligibility for energy-efficiency grants**, so grants for rural homes are increased by £500 and 3,000 more older households can access funding for home upgrades.
- ✔ **Introducing breakfast clubs in all primary schools**, helping parents get to work on time and ensuring no child starts the day hungry.
- ✔ **Cutting childcare costs for working parents** with two weeks of summer holiday clubs and increasing the value of tax free childcare to £3,000 per child.
- ✔ **Keeping down the cost of public transport**, preventing a return to peak rail fares and maintaining free bus travel for under-22s and older people.
- ✔ **Reducing tax for first time buyers**, increasing the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax relief threshold to £200,000, saving first time buyers up to £1,100 off the cost of buying a home.
- ✔ **Preventing above inflation hikes to water bills** while Scottish Water generates multi-million pound surpluses.

- ✔ **Improve access to banking hubs**, working with the banking sector to help anyone who needs reliable access to cash and banking services.

An NHS there when Scots need it

Scottish Labour will always defend the NHS and we will make sure it is delivering for the people living in Mid Scotland and Fife by:

- ✔ **Driving down NHS waiting lists**, with funding following the patient so that anyone from Mid Scotland and Fife who is willing to travel can be offered treatment wherever capacity is available.
- ✔ **Ending the 8am rush for a GP appointment** and bringing back the family doctor so everyone can get a GP appointment within 48 hours when they need one.
- ✔ **Creating new neighbourhood health hubs**, so people across Mid Scotland and Fife can access all their local health services in one place.
- ✔ **Establishing a virtual hospital** so patients can attend outpatient consultations and follow up appointments online, reducing the need to travel long distances to speak to a specialist.
- ✔ **Protecting services in underserved areas**, working with GPs to secure provision in rural practices and incentivising newly qualified dentists to work in under-served areas.
- ✔ **Launching an emergency mental health response service**, so that people in mental health crisis get specialist NHS care, not merely a police response.
- ✔ **Catching cancer earlier** with modernised screening and investment in new AI-enabled scanners so that waiting times targets are finally met.
- ✔ **Cracking down on poorly run care homes**, prioritising more regular inspections and improving transparency for residents and their families so quality services are easier to identify.

Mid Scotland and Fife needs change

- ✓ **Immediately funding additional care at home packages and step down beds**, as a first step to reducing levels of delayed discharge in hospitals.
- ✓ **Ending the patchwork provision of palliative care**, working with the profession to improve clinical pathways and minimum standards of care for those at the end of life.

Kickstarting the economy

A Scottish Labour government will unlock Mid Scotland and Fife's huge economic potential by:

- ✓ **Planning for the energy sector**, classifying grid build as a national planning priority, supporting the expansion of renewable energy including wind, pumped hydro, solar and tidal, and promoting Scotland's expertise in decommissioning.
- ✓ **Supporting transition plans for key industrial sites**, such as Mossmorran, working with businesses, local partners and the UK Government to attract new industry and secure a viable industrial future for these areas.
- ✓ **Abolishing the unfair business rates system**, replacing it with a new local business levy designed with business to incentivise local investment, tackle empty properties, and encourage entrepreneurship.
- ✓ **Supporting vibrant high streets and town centres**, ensuring online retailers and large distribution warehouses pay their fair share, and appointing a Chief Assessor so there is true accountability over valuations.
- ✓ **Speeding up planning decisions**, transforming the planning hub into a national planning agency and reforming planning rules to take account of economic potential.
- ✓ **Creating a National Transport Connections Plan**, identifying priority transport projects and investments across the region which will help drive the economy and support growing businesses.

Developing skills and creating good jobs

Scottish Labour will transform the skills system so that it works for people and business by:

- ✓ **Guaranteeing an apprenticeship place for every qualified applicant**, with the creation of 9,000 additional apprenticeships across Scotland.
- ✓ **Introducing "Taster Apprenticeships"**, giving young people experience of a workplace and the apprenticeship model before they commit, to help them find opportunities that suit them best.
- ✓ **Creating regional Apprenticeship Centres of Excellence in colleges** so growing industries have the pipeline of cutting-edge skills they need.
- ✓ **Launching regional employability hubs for Mid Scotland and Fife** to deliver a single front door into the skills system for anyone who wants to find work or retrain to boost their earnings.

- ✓ **Creating a Digital Skills Passport** helping people to move between jobs and careers.
- ✓ **Establish a Parent Works Scheme**, funding colleges to deliver dedicated training and employment support for parents who are unemployed or in low paid work, so they can fill local skills gaps, boost their household incomes and help lift children out of poverty.
- ✓ **Developing short reskilling courses**, tailored to skills gaps in the local economy and delivered in Fife, Forth Valley and Stirling Colleges.
- ✓ **Protecting workers from assault**, bringing in stronger sentences for those who attack people in the course of their work.

Setting our young people up to succeed

Scottish Labour will restore excellence and equity in our education system once again by:

- ✓ **Banning mobile phones in classrooms** so that schools are safe and calm places for learning once again.
- ✓ **Giving pupils in Mid Scotland and Fife more 1:1 support**, as part of plans to recruit 1,500 more classroom assistants across the country.
- ✓ **Implementing an education recovery programme**, with specialist literacy and numeracy teachers to help children who have fallen the furthest behind.
- ✓ **Industry work placements for secondary school pupils** with local employers and public services across Mid Scotland and Fife.
- ✓ **Providing jobs for teachers**, providing greater certainty with permanent contracts and jobs.
- ✓ **Increasing staff capacity in ASN classrooms**, with 300 of our new pupil support assistants based in specialist ASN units or schools.

Stronger communities

From Dunblane to Dalgety Bay, from Crieff to Cowdenbeath, Scottish Labour will invest in delivering local services, stronger and safer neighbourhoods, and better connected communities. That means that Scottish Labour will:

- ✓ **Fix the potholes in Mid Scotland and Fife**, repairing roads with a national £350m pothole fund.
- ✓ **Delivering fair funding for local services**, agreeing a new funding formula for local government in Fife, Clackmannanshire, Perth and Kinross, and Stirling.
- ✓ **Deliver rail upgrades and electrification** on the Fife circle line all the way to Dundee, with better services and faster commutes for people in Fife and Central Scotland.

Mid Scotland and Fife needs change

- ✔ **Give every neighbourhood a named community and crime prevention officer**, creating 46 new community and crime prevention officers in Mid Scotland and Fife.
- ✔ **Giving local people a say over service closures** whenever councils plan to shut local libraries, sports and leisure facilities, or community venues.
- ✔ **Redefining community benefit**, so funds derived from local energy projects deliver tangible, long-term results for communities, and acting to boost more community owned energy projects.
- ✔ **Simplifying Community Right to Buy**, making the legal process easier for local people to buy and own local land and assets for the benefit of communities.

A safer Scotland

Scottish Labour will restore security and make our neighbourhoods safe again by:

- ✔ **Returning police officers back to the front line** and giving every council ward in the region a named community and crime prevention officer.
- ✔ **Increasing the value of Antisocial Behaviour Fines**, meaning those who make communities feel less safe can face fines of up to £500.
- ✔ **Crushing illegal e-bikes**, using drone technology to trace unlicensed bikes and granting the police powers to issue warnings and fines for dangerous use of motorised and electronic bikes.
- ✔ **Restoring the Cashback for Communities Youth Work Fund**, with £1m dedicated to funding local approaches to youth work.
- ✔ **Prosecuting shoplifting and cracking down on drug dealing**, properly resourcing Police Scotland's organised crime teams.
- ✔ **Continuing funding for Rape Crisis and Women's Aid**, ensuring resources are delivered to local services which support victims.

Homes for all

As part of Scottish Labour's plans to build 125,000 homes and end the housing emergency, in Mid Scotland and Fife we will:

- ✔ **Fix the broken housing market**, with thousands of new affordable homes to drive down housing waiting lists and reduce rents.
- ✔ **Help renters to save for a deposit**, with a quarter of new mid-market rent houses set aside for working families who are saving to buy their own home.
- ✔ **Eradicate rough sleeping with an Ending Homelessness Unit** to drive action across government.
- ✔ **Establish a Mid Scotland and Fife Housing Development Trust** with responsibility for delivering affordable housing targets.

- ✔ **Grant homeowners more control over factoring**, with higher penalties when factors breach their obligations and making it easier for residents to end contracts.
- ✔ **Tackle the scale of empty and second homes**, closing tax loopholes and supporting councils to buy neglected and empty properties that blight neighbourhoods.

Protecting our natural environment

Scottish Labour will help everyone to play their part in making Mid Scotland and Fife a greener and healthier place to live by:

- ✔ **Creating a warm homes programme**, with one-stop centres in communities offering advice on new technologies, and installation of energy efficiency measures.
- ✔ **Increasing monitoring of sewage overflows**, boosting coverage to match levels elsewhere in the UK, to ensure that rivers such as the Leven, Ore, Forth and Tay can be protected for generations to come.
- ✔ **Rewarding farmers for nature-friendly practices**, incentivising nature restoration and recognising the environmental contributions already made by Scotland's farmers.
- ✔ **Working in partnership with farmers to improve animal welfare**, with a strategy to target rural veterinary shortages and phase out the use of farrowing crates.
- ✔ **Introducing a new Marine Plan**, so there is clarity for all industries within Scottish waters and a commitment to develop 40GW in offshore wind by 2040.
- ✔ **Establishing a Marine Recovery Fund**, funded through developer contributions, to deliver strategic marine and nature recovery.

A government that works for you

Scottish Labour will end the culture of secrecy and restore respect for taxpayers' money by:

- ✔ **Ending government waste by cutting a third of quangos** to improve delivery and value for public money.
- ✔ **Implementing the right of recall**, so people in Mid Scotland and Fife have the right to replace MSPs who do not uphold public standards.
- ✔ **Passing a Local Democracy Act**, to push power out of Holyrood and give people in Mid Scotland and Fife more control over public services and the right to elect a regional mayor.

Mid Scotland and Fife needs change

An outward looking country

Scottish Labour will promote Brand Scotland and all that Mid Scotland and Fife has to offer around the world by:

- ✓ **Protecting Scotland's historic assets**, reforming Historic Environment Scotland so it is fit for purpose and ensuring funding is properly used to maintain Scottish sites, like Stirling Castle, Dunfermline Abbey and St Andrew's Cathedral.
- ✓ **Marketing Scotland as a premium food and drink destination**, leveraging the strength of whisky and salmon while treating the wider food and drink sector as a strategic economic asset.
- ✓ **Driving the expansion of international air routes**, with a route development fund that supports Scottish airports.
- ✓ **Establishing a Major Events Bureau**, positioning venues across Scotland as leading destinations for world-class sport, culture, and international conferences.

This election is a straight choice between more of the same with the SNP or a government ready to build a better future with Scottish Labour.

The SNP has had 20 years in charge; they don't deserve another five.

On May 7, vote Scottish Labour on both votes for the change Scotland needs.