



West Scotland needs change

West Scotland is a beautiful region with both urban and rural areas, but after 20 years of SNP government too many people feel our region is 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 West Scotland.

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.

- ✔ **Improving 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 West Scotland by:

- ✔ **Driving down NHS waiting lists**, with funding following the patient so that anyone from West Scotland 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 can access their local health services, as well as more diagnostic tests and outpatient treatment closer to home.
- ✔ **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.
- ✔ **Catching cancer earlier** with a lung cancer screening programme and investment in new AI-enabled scanners so that waiting times targets are finally met.
- ✔ **Speed up ambulance response times**, introducing a 45 minute target for ambulance turnarounds to prevent vehicles being stuck in queues outside hospitals.
- ✔ **Delivering safe maternity services** in every part of the country to ensure that women can access quality maternity care no matter where they live in the West region.

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- ✔ **Launching an emergency mental health response service**, so that people in mental health crisis get specialist NHS care, not merely a police response.
- ✔ **Immediately funding additional care at home packages and step down beds**, as a first step to reducing levels of delayed discharge in hospitals.
- ✔ **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.

Kickstarting the economy

A Scottish Labour government will unlock West Scotland's huge economic potential by:

- ✔ **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.
- ✔ **Embed social and economic value weighting into public contracts**, delivering long overdue reforms to Scottish procurement laws government spending is used to back Scottish jobs and industry.
- ✔ **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 West 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 an Apprenticeship Centre of Excellence in West Scotland** so growing industries have the pipeline of cutting-edge skills they need.
- ✔ **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.

- ✔ **Launching regional employability hubs for West Scotland** to deliver a single front door into the skills system for anyone who wants to find work or retrain to boost their earnings.
- ✔ **Developing short reskilling courses**, tailored to skills gaps in the local economy and delivered by local 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 West Scotland pupils more 1:1 support**, as part of plans to recruit 1,500 more classroom assistants across the country.
- ✔ **Backing teachers on discipline**, with an enforceable National Behaviour Charter.
- ✔ **Implementing an education recovery programme**, with specialist literacy and numeracy teachers to help children who have fallen the furthest behind.
- ✔ **A new national neurodevelopmental pathway** so that neurodivergent people can get the right support instead of being stuck on inappropriate mental health waiting lists.
- ✔ **Industry work placements for West Scotland secondary school pupils** with local employers, public services and in growing industries.
- ✔ **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

Scottish Labour will work with local people to improve local services and make West Scotland a great place to live by:

- ✔ **Fixing the state of West Scotland's roads and filling the potholes**, with a national £350m pothole fund.
- ✔ **Delivering fair funding for local services**, agreeing a new funding formula for local government across West Scotland.
- ✔ **Giving people in West Scotland a say over service closures**, requiring councils to consult whenever they plan to shut local libraries, sports and leisure facilities.

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- ✔ **Fast-tracking bus franchising** so that we can bring bus services back under local control.
- ✔ **Delivering reliable ferry services**, merging CMAL and CalMac into a single public ferry agency and creating a long-term procurement plan to upgrade Scotland's ageing ferry fleet.
- ✔ **Protecting the status of denominational schools**, recognising the high quality education and choice they offer pupils and parents.

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.
- ✔ **Removing free bus passes** from those who carry out antisocial behaviour.
- ✔ **Increasing the value of Antisocial Behaviour Fines**, meaning those who make communities feel less safe can face fines of up to £500.
- ✔ **Prosecuting shoplifting and cracking down on drug dealing**, properly resourcing Police Scotland's organised crime teams.
- ✔ **Crushing illegal e-bikes**, using drone technology to track and trace unlicensed bikes for seizure.
- ✔ **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 West Scotland, 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.
- ✔ **Establish a West Scotland Housing Development Trust** with responsibility for delivering affordable housing targets.
- ✔ **Review accessible housing plans**, to ensure disabled households are properly prioritised for accessible homes.

- ✔ **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 West Scotland 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.
- ✔ **Tackling littering and waste from drinks' containers**, rolling out the deposit return scheme.
- ✔ **Rewarding farmers for nature-friendly practices**, incentivising nature restoration and recognising the environmental contributions already made by Scotland's farmers.

A government that works for you

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

- ✔ **Banning excessive bonuses for public executives.**
- ✔ **Ending government waste by cutting a third of quangos** to improve delivery and value for public money.
- ✔ **Publishing all government files relating to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital** and other recent SNP scandals.
- ✔ **Implementing the right of recall**, so people in West Scotland 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 West Scotland more control over public services.

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An outward looking country

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

- ✔ **Driving the expansion of international air routes**, with a route development fund that supports Scottish airports.
- ✔ **Advancing the Glasgow airport rail link** as a national priority, finally delivering a modern metro connection that goes from Glasgow city centre to the airport and ending decades of delay.
- ✔ **Championing the development of specialist hospitality qualifications**, working with business schools and colleges.

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.