

# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY SHARED POLICY PROGRAMME

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A GREENER,  
FAIRER, INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND



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## Introduction

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Scotland is so much more than its politics. But it is through our politics that we express our hopes for something better, and it is how we put those hopes into practice.

That is why doing politics better is so important. It gives us our best chance of a better Scotland, of handing over to the next generation a Scotland and a world worth living in. Ultimately, the same old politics will only deliver the same old outcomes. For bold outcomes, bold steps are needed.

And the boldest steps are needed when the challenges are greatest. The challenges we are facing have never been greater: a 'code red' warning for humanity of the consequences of the crises in our climate and in our natural world; recovery from a global pandemic; the repeated undermining by the UK Government of the powers of the Scottish Parliament; and the consequences for our economy and our international standing of a disastrous EU exit that Scotland did not vote for.

This agreement represents a leap of faith for both parties, the Scottish Government and the Green Group in the Scottish Parliament. It pulls us both out of our comfort zones. For the Scottish Government, it commits to a process of close cooperation and collaboration with another parliamentary group in a way that has never been done before in Scottish politics. The benefit is a stable foundation from which to deliver our policy programme. For the Green Group, it gives Green politicians their first opportunity of the responsibility of ministerial office in Scotland, or anywhere in the UK.

This agreement delivers bold action on pressing social issues, including more affordable homes and a new deal for tenants. It delivers on the steps needed to accelerate our response to the climate emergency, including a step change in support for active travel, new protections for our marine areas, and improvements to the energy efficiency of our homes. It commits us to working together to reform public services, including reform of the education system and the establishment of a National Care Service, and to building a more equal Scotland. And it reaffirms our shared commitment to independence and to ensuring that the people of Scotland are given a say on the country's constitutional future, underlining the clear democratic mandate secured in the recent election.

This agreement is not a coalition, and both parties will maintain their distinctive and principled voices in Scottish politics. And this agreement does not preclude either of us continuing to work, as appropriate, with the other parties in the Scottish Parliament, and beyond, to make progress on the policies Scotland needs to thrive.

The founding principles of our Parliament challenge us to be more collaborative in our politics, and to be innovative in the ways we serve the people of Scotland. That is why we are recommending this agreement to our parties. If agreed, we believe it will deliver the change we need to equip ourselves for the challenges we face, in a way that contributes to the global effort needed to save our planet for future generations.

**First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Scotland, and the Co-Leaders of the Scottish Green Party**

## **A democratic, outward-looking Scotland**

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The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that independence within the EU would provide the best conditions for Scotland, the people who live here, and future generations, to thrive. We will give people a choice about Scotland's future in this parliamentary session.

The necessity and urgency of independence have been underlined by the Covid pandemic. The full range of powers of an independent country would allow Scotland to put in place a transformational recovery from the pandemic, one which will lead to a fairer and more sustainable and prosperous nation.

We recognise that a further powerful argument for independence is the undermining and erosion of the devolution settlement and the powers of the Scottish Parliament by the UK Government.

While independence is the surest way to protect and enhance the powers of the Scottish Parliament, we are in the meantime committed to doing all that we can within the UK to prevent further damage to the devolution settlement. We will also work to extend the powers of the Scottish Government and Parliament for as long as Scotland remains within the UK. We will always make clear our opposition to matters that are not in the interests of Scotland and are not supported by Scotland's Parliament and people, such as withdrawal from the European Union and the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020.

We recognise, however, that despite this principled opposition, the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament have a duty to work within the legal framework, including international agreements, and to support cooperative working with the UK Government and other devolved administrations in equal partnership, and by consensus, to secure Scotland's interests.

We are committed to the fullest possible democratic participation in Scotland. Turnout at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election was the highest ever, but some groups are less likely to register or vote, including 16 and 17 year-olds and foreign nationals. We want to encourage more people to register to vote, to stand as candidates and to remove the barriers some people experience so they can vote independently.

We recognise the importance and value of strengthening Scotland's international relationships, presence and voice, including through the Scottish Government's network of offices overseas.

Therefore, we will:

- **secure a referendum on Scottish independence** after the Covid crisis. This would be within the current parliamentary session on a specific date to be determined by the Scottish Parliament. If the Covid crisis has passed, our intention is for the referendum to be within the first half of the five-year parliamentary session.
- work together to make the case that **Scotland should be an independent country within the European Union**, recognising each party's right and duty to set out its own arguments for, and visions of, independence.
- **protect and enhance the powers and responsibilities of the Scottish Government and Parliament**, securing their ability to make decisions in the best interests of Scotland.
- **promote legislation on electoral reform** that enables more people to stand as candidates at Scottish Parliament and local government elections and to improve the accessibility of elections, with a particular focus on people with sight loss.
- **strengthen participation, by all sections of our society, in Scotland's democratic processes**. We will use strategies and initiatives that promote a dialogue with people in Scotland, including forums such as citizens assemblies to help explore complex policy issues.
- work to **increase voter registration and active participation in elections by under-represented groups**, including non-UK citizens and young people.

We also agree that:

- to protect devolved decision-making within the UK, we will support the development of common frameworks by negotiation and agreement with the other governments of the UK, and with accountability to the Scottish Parliament, while recognising that the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 – passed at Westminster - makes the successful agreement and implementation of common frameworks extremely challenging. We will seek to agree common approaches with the other devolved administrations to act as a counterweight to the 2020 Act.



- to protect the powers of the Scottish Parliament, we will press for the Sewel Convention to be strengthened and legally defined, and for the UK Government to respect the legislative consent decisions of the Scottish Parliament.
- to enhance the responsibilities of the Scottish Government and Parliament within the UK, we will identify areas for further devolution, for example powers to introduce candidate quotas for Scottish Parliament and local government elections as set out by the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls. We also share an ambition to extend voting to asylum seekers living in Scotland, but recognise the difficulty in achieving that within the current asylum system which would require UK Government cooperation.
- to strengthen Scotland's international relationships, presence and voice we will:
  - establish Scottish Government offices in Copenhagen and Warsaw to promote Scotland's interests and reputation in the Nordic and Central European regions.
  - review approaches to future policy and economic engagement with a view to enhancing Scotland's global reach and presence over this parliamentary session. This will include an increased focus in the Global South including across Africa, Asia and South America, as we strengthen our relationships with emerging markets and developing countries.
  - provide additional resources to Screen Scotland for the purpose of facilitating year-round engagement between the Scottish and international film & television industries, with a particular emphasis on the USA.
- Scotland has a significant role to play in the global community to promote sustainable solutions, human rights, and peace; and encourage and enhance advocacy by and in support of, the Global South, including the poorest and those living in vulnerable situations; and for peace and justice.
- we take our responsibilities to assist other nations seriously, and we will continue to make strong representations to the UK Government to reinstate International Development funding to at least 0.7% of UK gross national income.

- building on our recent review of our approach to international development, our international development programme will be based on and align with our new Principles, including their stated underlying ethos of embedding a human rights approach in all our international development work.
- we are committed to the “Beyond Aid agenda” and to better aligning policies across the Scottish Government to ensure that we ‘do no harm’, contribute to positive development outcomes overseas, and improve our collective sustainability as defined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- through our recently established Ministerial working group on policy coherence for sustainable development, we will explore how we can ensure that actions across Government are consistent with: our approach to international development, including our commitment to promoting human rights and LGBTI equality internationally, and our work towards climate justice.
- we are firmly opposed to the possession, threat and use of nuclear weapons and we agree that the continued retention of nuclear weapons is morally wrong. We therefore support the objectives of the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and will work together to make an independent Scotland a nation free of nuclear weapons.

## Responding to the climate emergency

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### Transport

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that transport plays a crucial role in supporting a green and fair recovery, and believe that bold action is needed to increase the pace of change and the scale of investment to support the priorities and outcomes set out in the National Transport Strategy, including our ambitious climate goals.

We agree that in the face of the climate emergency we need to shift away from spending money on new road projects that encourage more people to drive, and instead focus our money and effort on maintaining roads, improving safety and providing a realistic and affordable alternative through investing in public transport and active travel.

To work towards this goal, we will:

- **align transport policy with our climate targets and the goal of reducing car/km by 20% by 2030.** Reducing the distance travelled by private car and the number of vehicles on the roads will improve air quality, the wellbeing of our communities and reduce accidents, and is an important part of our approach to achieving Scotland's ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
- **increase the proportion of Transport Scotland's budget spent on Active Travel initiatives** so that by 2024-25 at least £320m or 10% of the total transport budget will be allocated to active travel.
- during this parliamentary session, **invest over £5 billion in maintaining, improving and decarbonising Scotland's rail network.**
- use the outcomes of **the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)** to direct future transport infrastructure investment.
- **commission a Fair Fares Review to ensure a sustainable and integrated approach to public transport fares.** This will look at the range of discounts and concessionary schemes which are available on all modes including bus, rail and ferry. The review will consider options against a background where the costs of car travel are declining and public transport costs are increasing, exacerbating the impact on those living in poverty.

- progress the **on-going review of transport governance in Scotland** to ensure it is fully aligned with the climate and traffic reduction targets, and to ensure that the national and local capacity is in place to deliver our active travel goals.

To support growth in active travel, we also agree that:

- local authorities will be encouraged to deliver more Safe to School initiatives, with the aim of ensuring every child who lives within two miles of school is able to walk or wheel safely.
- all appropriate roads in built up areas will have a safer speed limit of 20 mph by 2025. A task group will be formed to plan the most effective route for implementation.
- Transport Scotland will work with Police Scotland to develop a one year pilot project to develop an online reporting system enabling anyone to upload camera footage of dangerous driving.
- our support for the purchase of new buses will be, where appropriate, conditional on space being available for bike transport in addition to wheelchair and buggy space.
- Transport Scotland will work with local and regional transport authorities on the establishment of an active freeway network for Scotland comprising local networks within towns and cities and connecting settlements and major destinations with high quality, safe routes.

We also agree that:

- future investment in our transport network will be set out in the second Strategic Transport Projects Review and will align with the sustainable mode and investment hierarchies.
- during this parliamentary session, new roads projects will normally only be taken forward where they reduce the maintenance backlog; address road safety concerns or adapt the network to deal with the impacts of climate change or benefit communities such as bypassing settlements.
- we will not build road infrastructure to cater for forecast unconstrained increases in traffic volumes.

The Scottish National Party and Scottish Green Party have and will maintain distinct positions of the dualling of the A96. However, as part of this agreement, the Scottish

Government will take forward a transport enhancements programme on the A96 corridor that improves connectivity between surrounding towns, tackles congestion and addresses safety and environmental issues. This will include:

- dualling from Inverness to Nairn.
- bypassing of Nairn, Keith, Elgin and Inverurie accompanied by measures to remove through traffic from the by-passed town centres.
- targeted road safety improvements where needed, for example between Fochabers and Huntly and Inverurie to Aberdeen.
- the development of an A96 “Electric Highway”.

The current plan is to fully dual the A96 route between Inverness and Aberdeen. We agree to conduct a transparent, evidence-based review to include a climate compatibility assessment to assess direct and indirect impacts on the climate and the environment. This will report by the end of 2022.

We will develop a programme of enhanced public transport improvements in North East Scotland, which will include:

- work to improve the resilience, reliability and efficiency of the Aberdeen to Inverness rail corridor, alongside our commitment to decarbonise the rail network, to make it more competitive to road and encourage modal shift for both passengers and freight.
- working with Nestrans, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils on the feasibility of a mass rapid transit system for the region, and also a rail link between Dyce and Ellon and further north to Peterhead and Fraserburgh.
- reviewing the A96 corridor with a view to implementing appropriate bus priority measures

We also agree:

- work on other trunk roads projects and programmes under construction, design, development or procurement will continue and be subject to the normal statutory assessment and business case processes.
- the future direction of investment in Scotland’s railways will be determined as part of the second Strategic Transport Projects Review.

- a Community Bus Fund will be introduced, which will support local transport authorities to improve local public transport in their areas. This fund will support transport authorities to explore the full range of options set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, including municipal bus services.
- as part of work on policy measures to reduce car/km by 20%, we will publish an analysis of options to assess and identify demand management options at the local and national level to encourage the use of active travel and public transport as an alternative to cars.
- we will support the delivery of publicly funded lifeline ferry services in cases where essential connectivity cannot be met by the normal operation of the market. We will assess the model of delivery of ferry services in Scotland, to ensure that our approach delivers good outcomes for communities, value for money, accountability and transparency.
- there are areas of transport such as fuel duty, vehicle taxes and rail services, where regulation and reserved issues constrain our ability to make and implement necessary policies. We will press the UK Government for further devolution of transport, specifically with regard to rail infrastructure and services.

## Energy

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that the climate emergency means we need to use the limited powers we have to accelerate the decarbonisation of our energy system. While electricity has already been largely decarbonised, our plans will see a significant increase in electricity demand for heating and transport. To accommodate this, we will support the continued and accelerated deployment of renewable energy. To maximise the economic benefits of the transition, and to create quality green jobs, we will do more to support the growth of the supply chain and invest in the infrastructure we need.

Critically, our drive to reduce emissions, as well as our commitment to climate resilience, has to be delivered through a just transition, ensuring it is fair and creates benefits and opportunities for all.

While we do not entirely agree on the role of the oil and gas sector, given the urgency of the climate emergency, we accept that countries around the world, including the UK, cannot continue with unlimited recovery of hydrocarbons if the aims of the Paris Agreement are to be met - we cannot ignore the concern that unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is simply incompatible with protecting the planet.

However, we recognise how important our oil and gas industry, infrastructure, highly skilled workforce and supply chain are to Scotland. To support the economy and communities that depend upon the sector, and to ensure we meet our energy needs sustainably, we must secure a transition that is truly just, maximises opportunities for decarbonisation, protects workers and their rights, but also fast enough to protect the planet.

We therefore support the call for Scottish Government involvement in a pre-production oil and gas licence climate checkpoint review.

We will also undertake a programme of work and analysis to better understand our energy requirements as we transition to net zero and how this aligns with our climate change targets and the goal of the Paris agreement to **limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius**, compared to pre-industrial levels. This work will supplement a wide range of evidence that will be considered to take an informed policy decision on the contribution of North Sea production to the global climate emergency and to Scotland's economy, security and wellbeing. This will report by the end of 2022.

While we do not have an entirely shared vision for the role of hydrogen and carbon capture, utilisation and storage across the whole economy, we recognise – albeit to different extents – that these technologies will play a part in a just transition. The Scottish Government remains supportive of these technologies as part of the energy transition and in particular it remains committed to supporting the delivery of the Acorn project. However, we agree that any strategy for deployment of these technologies must enable decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero.

As a demonstration of our commitment to just transition across Scotland, we will work with partners, communities and other stakeholders to take forward a ten-year £500m Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray. This will support and accelerate the transition of the region and support the role of Aberdeen and the wider north east as one of Scotland's centres of excellence for the transition to a net zero economy.

Learning from the Grangemouth Future Industry Growth Board, we will work with industry, workforce and local communities to consult on the best way to develop and implement sectoral Just Transition Plans. This includes sectors such as chemicals, nuclear and other energy intensive industries. As part of this we will consult on the requirement for large businesses to produce Just Transition Plans.

Therefore, we will:

- set an ambition to deliver, subject to consultation, **between 8 and 12 GW of additional installed onshore wind by 2030**, furthering on our ambitions for up to 11 GW of offshore wind. This will be supported by the changes in the planning system needed to permit the growth of this essential, zero-carbon sector. We also recognise the need to expand offshore wind in a way that maximises opportunities for ecological restoration and mitigates potential impacts on marine biodiversity, while committing to manage such impacts proportionately. In so doing we will encourage community ownership and will work with the industry to secure commitments to support the Scottish supply chain.
- to support people's jobs and livelihoods, we will create a ten-year **£500 million Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray** to support and accelerate the just transition of the region.
- support the **growth of the marine renewables and offshore wind sectors with a strengthened framework of support**, to be set out in the forthcoming energy strategy, focused on funding for the infrastructure these sectors need, such as port upgrades. We also recognise the potential impacts on marine biodiversity arising from the major expansion in offshore wind required to achieve our common net zero goals. We commit to working together in a way that recognises this reality and manages these challenges in a proportionate manner. We agree that there is enormous potential to harness Scotland's natural resources through emerging wave, tidal and floating offshore wind technologies.
- set out the process to deliver **a draft of the next Climate Change Plan, that demonstrates a credible pathway to achieving the 2030 target**, for consideration in the first half of this parliamentary session.

We also agree that:

- we will deliver an NPF4 that actively enables renewable energy, supporting repowering and planning for the expansion of the grid, with local community input throughout the planning process, and which recognises the global climate emergency as a material consideration for appropriately located renewable energy developments.
- solar power has an important role in continuing to decarbonise our heat and electricity supply, and the forthcoming Energy Strategy will, in consultation with the sector, set out a vision for its future.



## Green homes and buildings

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that we need to decarbonise how we heat our homes and buildings to meet the net zero pathway, so that by 2030 at least 1 million homes and at least 50,000 non-domestic buildings are using zero emission heating systems instead of fossil fuel boilers. We also agree that, where technically and legally feasible and cost-effective, by 2030 a large majority of buildings should achieve a good level of energy efficiency, which for homes is at least equivalent to an EPC Band C, with all homes meeting at least this standard by 2033.

We are committed to ensuring a socially-just and fair transition for consumers in particular, continuing to eradicate fuel poverty, and to ensuring that our existing and potential workforce has the support, skills and retraining needed to realise the significant economic opportunities from refurbishing our building stock.

We will therefore develop a strengthened policy and delivery framework for green homes and green buildings, including:

- **phasing out the need to install new or replacement fossil fuel boilers**, in off gas from 2025 and in on gas areas from 2030, subject to technological developments and decisions by the UK Government in reserved areas.
- introducing primary legislation, subject to consultation and to limits on devolved competence, that provides **the regulatory framework for zero emissions heating and energy efficiency**, and underpinning powers to support this transition and ambitious programme.
- developing and agreeing through consultation a series of phased targets starting in 2024, with the most difficult buildings like hospitals being decarbonised by 2038, and for **all publically-owned buildings to meet zero emission heating requirements, with a backstop of 2038**.
- scaling up public investment to both meet our targets and secure a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. **We will invest at least £1.8 billion over this parliamentary session**, allowing us to accelerate energy efficiency upgrades and renewable heating deployment, and creating new jobs and supply chain opportunities across Scotland.

We also agree:

- that all new buildings where a building warrant is applied for from 2024 must use zero emissions heating as the primary heating source and meet

significantly higher energy efficiency standards, as well as explicit support for *passivhaus* and equivalent standards.

- to consult on reforms for Energy Performance Certificates to better align to net-zero and to underpin a future regulatory framework for heat in buildings.
- to immediately end public subsidies for oil and LPG boilers.
- to enable local government and housing associations to provide whole home retrofits where needed, helping to upgrade the most inefficient and expensive to heat social homes to the highest possible standard in one leap.
- to invest at least £400 million over this parliamentary session in heat and energy efficiency projects, including providing support for zero carbon local and district heat networks, including large scale heat pumps. This scheme will provide both capital and project development support.
- to provide additional support for rural and islands homes which require bespoke and targeted advice.
- to require home and building upgrades at the point of sale, change of tenancy, and refurbishment to meet at least EPC C standards or equivalent, on a mandatory basis, from 2025 onwards. To ensure the approach is fair, and to avoid unintended consequences, this will be subject to a detailed consultation in 2022 and supported by an upscaled grants and advisory service. As a backstop, and to ensure we meet our climate targets, we will require all homes to be upgraded by 2033.
- that the UK Government must take urgent action to create the regulatory and market conditions to enable accelerated deployment of zero emissions heating in Scotland.
- to immediately increase the cash-back available to home and building owners on measures to improve the efficiency of buildings and install zero emission heating, and to replace with a grant scheme to support energy efficiency and zero emission heat improvements in 2022/23.
- to deliver a public communications programme to raise awareness of the support and advisory services available and to encourage home upgrades, in order to maximise uptake of these schemes.
- to introduce Fair Work standards as a condition to public sector heat and energy efficiency contracts.

## Planning

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that our planning system should be a positive force for vital change and improvement in Scotland's places, for connecting strong, well-functioning communities and for enhancing the health and wellbeing of our people. The planning system, which shapes everyone's lives in Scotland, must be accessible, streamlined and transparent. We recognise that there are important decisions that need to be made about Scotland's future development to help us meet our net zero ambitions and deliver a green recovery.

We therefore agree to ensure approval and adoption of Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), which will be vital in supporting the delivery of net zero by 2045 with significant progress by 2030.

In NPF4, we agree to promote and deliver a spatial strategy, planning policies and national developments that together will help build resilient and empowered communities, achieve a wellbeing economy and deliver better, greener places. In particular, we will work towards an NPF4 that will:

- **embed the concept of twenty minute neighbourhoods** to strengthen community resilience, reduce carbon emissions and reduce the need to travel, by improving local liveability and wellbeing.
- actively **enable renewable energy, including solar power, supporting repowering of existing wind farms and planning for the expansion of the grid**, recognising the global climate emergency as a material consideration for appropriately located renewable energy developments and revising the national spatial framework for onshore wind so that developments on National Parks and National Scenic Areas are not supported and the sensitivity of other nationally important designated sites is respected in line with wider policies set out in the National Planning Framework. Subject to fuller assessment, development in all other areas can be supported in principle unless impacts are unacceptable. We will also agree that all renewable energy projects over 50MW should be designated as a national development in NPF4, together with supporting electricity grid transmission infrastructure.
- actively **enable the supply chain for the renewable energy sector**, including support in the national spatial strategy for regional scale proposals for associated business and supply chain infrastructure, such as energy centres and port diversification.

- secure **positive effects for biodiversity from development** and deliver natural solutions to climate change in a way that also enhances biodiversity.
- support and guide positive choices that will **help Scotland achieve a 20% car kilometre reduction** by 2030.
- prioritise **bringing vacant and derelict land and property back** into productive use.
- help us to **meet the housing requirements of people living in Scotland**, including where there are pressures arising from second home ownership.

We also agree that:

- legislative reforms to the planning system must strengthen delivery of NPF4 and local development plans and ensure that effective engagement with local communities happens at all stages of local development planning, including better influence of communities through local place plans.
- public bodies need land assembly powers, such as compulsory purchase and compulsory sales orders, which are effective, efficient and fair in order to support delivery of much-needed regeneration, infrastructure and the reuse of vacant land and property.
- we will explore, develop and deliver an effective, fair mechanism for capturing, for public benefit, a share of the increase in land value that occurs when development is supported through the planning system.
- through development of NPF4, we will explore how community benefit can be taken into account and given appropriate weight in planning decisions.
- we will ensure that NPF4 places appropriate controls on development of new energy from waste facilities, reflecting circular economy principles, waste reduction, and decarbonisation objectives.
- we will embed nature networks across Scotland into NPF4 to deliver on our goals to restore and regenerate the environment.

## Economic recovery and infrastructure

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The Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party are committed to securing a green economic recovery from Covid, investing in restoring our environment and the green technologies and industries of the future to create jobs and build a prosperous Scotland. We will therefore increase public investment in these areas by at least £500m, with a view to mobilising further investment as the parliamentary session progresses. These funds will support a green recovery and will include increasing investment in nature restoration, green industrial development, cutting emissions by improving energy efficiency of homes and buildings.

### Conditionality in public sector grants

We believe that public sector funding should lever in wider benefits, such as the promotion of Fair Work and the just transition to a net-zero economy and the elimination of tax avoidance, in order to support the development of a sustainable economic recovery and a successful wellbeing economy over the long term.

We therefore agree to work with employers, unions, local authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that by 2025 conditions are applied to the scoring criteria for all public sector grants, where it is proportionate and relevant to do so under current legislation. These conditions shall also be applied to relevant, tailored non-financial support provided by enterprise agencies.

We agree to ensure that conditionality is both proportionate and effective in delivering real benefits, without placing unnecessary burdens on recipients of public sector grants and support. Appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks will be developed and applied to track, ensure progress and to inform changes and updates to relevant guidance.

We will:

- introduce a **requirement on public sector grants to pay at least the real Living Wage** to all employees, subject to limits on devolved competence.
- provide appropriate channels for **effective workers' voice**, such as trade union recognition.
- explore all possible options to **ensure recipients of public grants do not engage in tax avoidance**.

We will apply criteria on real Living Wage and channels for effective workers' voice by summer 2022 and consider how the conditions can be applied to NDPBs.

We will also consider how we develop conditions for the other Fair Work principles, including opportunity, security, respect and fulfilment.

We agree that, where appropriate and commensurate, we will include conditions relating to the following important values.

Through the **Fair Work First** criteria, we will incorporate the principles of the Fair Work Convention including:

- *Effective Voice*: appropriate channels for effective voice, such as trade union recognition.
- *Opportunity*: investment in workforce development.
- *Security*: such as no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts, payment of the Real Living Wage and no use of unfair fire and rehire practices.
- *Respect*: Including action to tackle the gender pay gap and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace.
- *Fulfilment*: Investment in workforce development, support for family friendly and flexible working practices.

To support businesses in **transitioning to net zero**, we will consult on:

- **for large businesses**: annual public disclosure of how climate change will affect their business, consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures.
- **for large businesses**: the role of Just Transition Plans.
- **for businesses receiving grant or loan / equity funding of over £500k and for major contracts**: a commitment to reduce scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions at a level consistent with Scotland's 2045 net zero target, including requiring that a published carbon management plan for achieving such targets is made available on the company's website and submitted to the public body providing the funding.

We will also consult on how to take forward these proposals in a manner that protects business viability, competitiveness and early stage businesses. We will

consult on when we will introduce net zero conditionality as part of our consultation process.

For the purpose of this policy, large businesses are those which employ over 250 people.

We also agree that:

- the granting of financial and non-financial support by the Scottish Government and those Non-Departmental Public bodies accountable to it will provide additional weighting to applicants who will use the support to reduce emissions, increase carbon sequestration or restore the natural environment.
- we will work with unions, employers and other stakeholders to promote a cross party approach in calling for devolution of employment legislation powers to the Scottish Parliament to consider how to support and strengthen application of appropriate conditions to public sector grants.
- in advance of devolution of employment law, we will press the UK Government to apply appropriate scoring conditions to public sector grants in Scotland under reserved powers.

## **Community wealth building**

We will develop a Community Wealth Building Bill, which will focus on encouraging diverse and inclusive local economies, finance, land, and ownership models. It will include:

- working within and developing procurement practices to support local economies, including Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) and micro-businesses, and improved access to training and labour markets for disadvantaged communities and individuals.
- encouraging public kitchens, including school canteens, to source more food produced by local businesses and organic producers.
- where possible, to base public sector capital and revenue funding decisions on targeted social, economic and environmental outcomes.

## **National Strategy for Economic Transformation**

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that meeting our climate targets and delivering a green economic recovery from Covid, protecting and

restoring our environment, and re-orienting our economy towards wellbeing and fair work should be the basis of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

The National Strategy for Economic Transformation will drive Scotland's economic transformation as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and undertakes a just transition to a net-zero economy.

Transformational change must be a national endeavour and the NSET will draw on recommendations from recent citizens' assemblies as a way of incorporating the views of the public.

Our vision for Scotland is to create a wellbeing economy: a society that is thriving across economic, social and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for Scotland's people and places.

The NSET will plan for investment in the industries of the future and in a just transition to a net zero economy, in line with Scottish Government targets. It will be supported by Just Transition Plans for sectors and regions starting with an Energy Just Transition Plan as part of a refreshed Energy Strategy.

The NSET will represent a coherent Green Industrial Strategy for Scotland, which will be supported by the Just Transition Plans for industry including a vision for reinvigorating Scottish manufacturing and heavy industry, supporting Scottish supply chains and creating high-quality jobs.

The NSET will recognise and explore opportunities to enhance the role of alternative ownership models in the economy.

The Scottish Government and the Green Group in the Scottish Parliament will collaborate on the development of a **national strategy for economic transformation** to be published by late Autumn 2021 to deliver:

- a bold, ambitious plan to transform the economy, putting us on the path to meeting our 2030 climate targets, helping restore the natural environment, stimulate innovation, create jobs, improve wellbeing for all, and further embed fair work standards across all sectors of the economy.
- a package of transformational projects that will include addressing climate, the environment, wellbeing and fair work.

We also agree that:



- we will develop a set of wellbeing indicators for Scotland which create a dashboard to monitor and track economic success. The monitor will not only guide economic policy but will also identify barriers to wellbeing and integrate a four capitals approach to make sure that sustainability (environmental, economic, human and social) is embedded.
- we will explore the creation of a new green industrial catalyst fund that will support investment and growth in the green industrial sector.
- we will set out how we will provide tailored support for businesses with alternative ownership models, including cooperatives and social enterprises, with a view to increasing their representation in the Scottish economy.

## **Landfill Tax and the circular economy**

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party agree to explore the use of Scotland's devolved tax powers over Landfill Tax to ensure they are consistent with our net zero ambitions.

We commit to reviewing the role incineration plays in Scotland's waste hierarchy, including the need for new incineration capacity, taking account of all available evidence and recognising that for almost all materials incineration, while generally preferable to landfill in terms of environmental impact, is close to the bottom of the hierarchy.

We also recognise the need to ensure that views of local communities on planned developments are listened to and heard. Consideration will also be given to the role of incineration and fiscal incentives, such as a waste tax, in the context of the planned waste route map and the Climate Change Plan, taking account of all waste targets and supporting a pathway to reducing waste sector emissions.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party share an ambition to advance Scotland's circular economy, as an essential contribution to tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. We therefore agree to discuss the development of policies to achieve this aim, including extended producer responsibility, potential fiscal incentives, and consideration of what requirements may need to be included in a Circular Economy Bill later in this parliamentary session.

## **Non-domestic rates**

We are committed to a fair and transparent non-domestic rates system, one that is not undermined by avoidance tactics. We commit to using the anti-avoidance powers in the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020 to assist local authorities in tackling known tax avoidance tactics including when they make decisions on applying empty property relief and charity relief.

We are committed to developing a fiscal framework for local government and the devolution of empty property relief on 1 April 2023.

## **Citizens' assembly on local government funding**

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that an increased use of deliberative engagement with the public will improve outcomes and develop more effective policies and public services. This includes citizens' assemblies, citizens' juries and other participatory democratic innovations. The development of a sustainable infrastructure to support effective citizens' assemblies will include the consideration of the governance, remit and subjects that could be put to an assembly.

We agree that funding local government through Council Tax is an area where inclusive, deliberative engagement would help develop a fairer, more inclusive and fiscally sustainable form of local taxation. Because of the complexities of the system, any participative work should be at both local and national level and should be seen in the context of the broader system of taxes and local governance. Deliberative engagement can start locally, and culminate in a national citizens' assembly. This would aim to set out fiscally sustainable options, as well as the changes to the current Council Tax system needed to develop this.

We will therefore establish a working group with representation from the Scottish Green Party, engaging with COSLA, to oversee the development of effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, including Council Tax, that culminate in a citizens' assembly.

The working group would agree joint sponsorship of the deliberative engagement by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party. This will include agreeing:

- the forms of deliberative engagement to use, at local and national level.
- a trusted governance structure, the scale and scope of the work, including a remit and questions for participants.

- the scrutiny and oversight required to ensure balanced evidence from a range of experts.
- the form of outputs of these deliberative engagements, and roles regarding responding to recommendations.

We also agree to:

- set timescales for the delivery and completion of this work within the current parliamentary session, expecting that the process will require a minimum of 18 months to establish, recruit, deliver and report. Once the report is delivered to the sponsors, we expect that a response to the recommendations would be debated in Parliament and agreed within 6 months.
- commission sortition recruitment to an agreed weighting, and commission an agreed design and delivery of the process.
- consider how this work aligns with broader commitments for an annual citizens' assembly on as yet undecided topics.

## A fairer Scotland

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### Housing

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that housing is a fundamental human right. We believe that it underpins the health, wellbeing, happiness and life-chances of people in our communities. We will work together to make the right to a suitable, affordable, warm and safe home a reality.

We will take action to improve the affordability and quality of rented homes, and to improve the fairness of the terms on which they are rented.

We will take action to end homelessness.

We will work together on our shared aim for everyone to have a safe, high-quality home that is affordable and meets their needs in the place they want to be. A new housing standard will underpin these ambitions, ensuring that all homes, irrespective of tenure, type or location should, over time, meet this standard.

We therefore agree, as part of the Rented Sector Strategy to be published by the end of 2021, to deliver **a new deal for tenants**. This new deal will be developed in consultation, and will:

- create **a new housing regulator** for the private rented sector to improve standards and enforce tenants' rights.
- enhance tenants' rights, including through **greater restrictions on evictions over winter**, providing additional security for tenants.
- introduce **new rights for tenants**, for example giving tenants greater flexibility to decorate their home and to keep pets.
- put in place **additional penalties and compensation** for illegal evictions.

Following the conclusion of the Rented Sector Strategy consultation we will publish a final Rented Sector Strategy and introduce a **Housing Bill in the second year of this parliamentary session**, to deliver a number of the legislative changes required to implement the Strategy.

We will also implement **an effective national system of rent controls**, with an appropriate mechanism to allow local authorities to introduce local measures. We will consult on the options, deliver legislation and implement rent controls by the end of 2025.

We will **deliver 110,000 affordable homes by 2032** of which at least 70% will be available for social rent and 10% will be in our remote, rural and island communities. We will develop a Remote, Rural & Islands Housing action plan to ensure we meet the housing needs of those areas and help retain people and attract them to these communities. This will be backed by a Remote, Rural and Island Housing Fund of at least £45m as part of our overall affordable housing supply programme funding in this parliamentary session.

We also agree:

- through all of this work, to use innovative methods to engage people with the proposals we consult on, including through listening to those with lived experience.
- to improve the availability of homes by working together to regulate short-term lets, give local authorities the ability to manage the impact of second homes and bring empty homes back into use. Where possible, empty homes will be brought into the social rented sector.
- to progress work towards tenure-neutral standards and work to develop a new Housing Standard for all tenures that is aligned with the proposed energy efficiency and heat standards.
- to work to end homelessness, including by rolling out a housing-first approach.
- to take forward the recommendations of the Scottish Parliament working group on tenement maintenance.
- to explore ways in which we can provide further support for housing cooperatives, including potentially through LBTT relief, through funding and financing options.
- to consult, as part of the Rented Sector Strategy, on how we will deliver a rent guarantor scheme for estranged young people.
- to ensure community housing trusts are adequately funded so that they can support the delivery of our enhanced rural home building plans.

## Child poverty

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party are united in our commitment to eradicating child poverty and meeting the ambitious targets set through the Child

Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and agreeing that Scotland should be the best place in the world to grow up.

We agree that as part of the national mission to tackle child poverty, action is needed across government, the wider public sector, civic society and business to make the bold changes required.

We agree there has been an attack on the welfare state by the UK Government pushing families into poverty whilst we take action to pull people out of poverty. The focus must remain on these attacks whilst acknowledging only the further devolution of powers, particularly over social security and employment, would enable the Scottish Government to go further and deliver a fairer more equal Scotland. We are committed to using the limited powers that we have to help the people of Scotland in the most effective ways possible.

The Scottish Child Payment is one of the building blocks to supporting children in poverty and to maximise the impact on tackling child poverty we agree to:

- **significantly increase the level of the Scottish Child Payment**, following the planned rollout to 6 to 15 year olds, in order to maximise the impact on child poverty, **with the full £20 payment being achieved within the lifetime of the Parliament**. In addition, we have a shared aspiration to actively seek ways to accelerate the implementation of that commitment, including looking at options for staged increases. Final decisions about timing and increases will factor in to the spending review and be taken in the relevant budget.
- provide immediate support to children and young people through **Scottish Child Payment bridging payments of £520 in both 2021 and 2022**, paid quarterly for children in receipt of free school meals on the basis of low income. In order to maximise uptake of these bridging payments we will take action to encourage those eligible to sign up for free school meals.
- **collaborate in the development of the next Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan for the period 2022-26**, setting out further action to deliver progress on our shared ambition to eradicate child poverty in Scotland. This will include action to maximise household incomes, reduce household costs, address the poverty premium, and improve the wellbeing and life chances of children and young people.

As a programme of firm commitments, we agree:

- to provide £10 million of funding over this parliamentary term to increase access to advice services to maximise incomes, tackle the poverty penalty

and improve wellbeing. This will be in accessible settings including education and health settings with a focus on families, particularly the six priority families as outlined in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

- that during this Parliament, we will introduce statutory guidance for schools; increasing the use of generic items of uniform and reducing costs for families.
- to treble the funding we make available to the STUC Unions into Schools project *A Better Way to Work*, providing up to £70,000 from 2022/23.
- to explore, with a view to implementing, ways to improve the support given to people impacted by the UK Government's benefit cap, within the scope of devolved powers, and as part of our new deal for tenants.
- that the Fairer Scotland Duty provides a statutory basis for consideration of socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decision making. We will strengthen the focus on child poverty within new guidance to support public bodies in the implementation of this Duty.
- to continue to work with stakeholders and local authorities to explore systems of automatic payment for devolved social security benefits. This will include linking Scottish Child Payment with our Best Start Grant entitlements, linking Scottish Child Payment data to trigger automation of local authority entitlements where possible, and "passported" entitlements based on receipt of devolved disability benefits.
- to prioritise work to deliver a Minimum Income Guarantee, focusing on what can be done with the existing powers held by the Scottish Parliament to ensure that people in Scotland can live dignified, health and secure lives.
- to undertake an independent review of the purpose and operation of the Scottish Welfare Fund to ensure it works as well as possible in all parts of the country.
- to continue to call upon the UK Government to support basic income pilots in Scotland and across the rest of the UK.

We also agree that:

- we will extend financial support to people subject to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) recognising that the UK government retains control of the list of restricted public funds for immigration purposes, which may undermine our efforts.

- mitigating these policies presents highly significant challenges, including the ongoing need for complex data from the Department for Work and Pensions.
- these harmful and ineffective UK Government policies must be removed, in order to provide the most effective and swift remedy to this situation. We will work with stakeholders and organisations from across the political spectrum to effectively lobby the UK Government into addressing these harmful policies at source.

Action we have committed to elsewhere in this agreement, for example, our plans to offer a new deal for tenants, along with an effective system of rent controls, will also support our joint commitment to tackling child poverty.

## Equality, inclusion and human rights

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that equality, inclusion and human rights should underpin decision-making and delivery across the work of government and the wider public sector in Scotland. We are committed to:

- promoting equality and tackling discrimination.
- furthering Scotland’s position as a global leader in human rights, and taking action to ensure the progressive implementation of human rights for everyone in Scotland.
- ensuring that all of Scotland’s people, including those who share protected characteristics, are able to fulfil their potential and achieve the outcomes in the National Performance Framework.
- working with communities to ensure that everyone feels safe, respected and included in the life of Scotland.
- protecting and advancing LGBTI rights. We know that trans people in particular continue to suffer poorer outcomes relative to the wider population, and this needs to change. As we take forward the specific commitments set out here, we jointly reaffirm our commitment to dignity, equality and inclusion of the LGBTI community in Scotland.

We will:

- **reform the Gender Recognition Act** in a Bill introduced in the first year of this parliamentary session. This will ensure the process by which a trans person can



obtain legal recognition is simplified, reducing the trauma associated with that process.

- **introduce world-leading human rights legislation** within this parliamentary session to incorporate, so far as possible within devolved competence, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This legislation will also include the right to a healthy environment, a right for older people to ensure equal access to their human rights so that they can live a life of dignity and independence, and an equality clause which provides equal access for everyone, including LGBTI people, to the rights contained within the Bill.
- **improve support for people at risk of destitution due to No Recourse to Public Funds**, including through delivery of the Ending Destitution Together strategy. While recognising that the Scottish Government does not have powers to change UK-wide rules on No Recourse to Public Funds, no-one should be made destitute because of their immigration status.
- aim to bring forward legislation to **implement a ban on conversion therapy in Scotland**, which is as comprehensive as is possible under currently devolved powers by the end of 2023, unless sufficiently comprehensive proposals are brought forward before then by either the UK Government or through the Scottish Parliament.

We also agree:

- to further embed equality and human rights within all stages of the Scottish Government's Budget process, taking account of the Equality Budget Advisory Group's recommendations, to ensure our spend advances equality and human rights for all of Scotland's people.
- to develop and implement an equality and human rights strategy by the end of 2024 to ensure that equality and human rights are embedded in all we do, particularly in the economic support we provide and in our international activities. This will include the creation of a human rights impact assessment framework for all policy and legislative work.
- that tackling gender based violence and sexual abuse should be priorities for all of Scottish society and that educational settings in particular should be safe spaces for all young people. We will ask the Gender Based Violence in Schools Working Group and the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Delivery Group to

consider, together, the current evidence base and planned actions to address this very serious issue, and will adjust our approach accordingly. Having delivered the work of these groups, including guidance for schools, we will then commission an independent review to establish positive practice and further areas for improvement, during this parliamentary session. We recognise the work of the Young Women's Lead Committee, Equally Safe and the findings of the PSE review in Scotland and look forward to seeing the work of the Gender Based Violence in Schools Working Group and the Working Group on Misogyny and Criminal Justice come to fruition over the coming year and during this parliamentary session.

- that we are committed to preventing and eradicating all forms of gender-based violence by dedicating resources to tackle gender inequality, including pay inequality, unequal access to criminal and civil justice and financial support, and unequal access to public and social services that entrench dependency.
- that we consider non-binary people to be members of the wider trans community, and will work to achieve improvements to their rights and wellbeing, along with those of all trans people. We support the Non-Binary Working Group and look forward to receiving their recommendations to improve non-binary equality next year. Following from that, we will develop an action plan by spring 2023, setting out how we will take forward their recommendations and our next steps in achieving equality for non-binary people.

## Public services recovery and reform

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### School education

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe in Scotland's ambition to be the best place for children and young people to grow up.

We agree that Scottish education needs to deliver excellence in terms of ensuring children and young people develop a broad range of skills and capacities at the highest levels, while also ensuring equity, so that every child and young person can thrive and have the best opportunity to succeed, regardless of their social circumstances or additional needs.

In order to achieve this, we will work with partners to develop an empowered and collaborative system, where everyone's contribution is heard and valued and where improving children and young people's outcomes is at the heart of everything we do. This can only be achieved through harnessing the many and significant strengths in Scottish education, acknowledging and nurturing the hard work and commitment of teachers, support staff, parents and carers, and young people across Scotland, supported by positive and forward-looking debates on education in Parliament and wider society.

Therefore, we will:

- work together, jointly and closely, to take forward **a programme of education reform, incorporating the recommendations in the OECD report '*Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence: Into the future*'**. This includes implementing the conclusions of the work of the independent advisor on reform of Education Scotland and inspection, Professor Ken Muir, and replacing the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
- work with the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers to ensure there is **appropriate career progression and pathways for teachers looking to specialise in Additional Support for Learning**, with the intention that this will result in an overall increase to the number of teachers who specialise in ASL in Scotland's schools, with particular emphasis on ensuring that the Lead Teacher structure delivers on this outcome.
- explore in collaboration with trade unions and other key stakeholders options **for the development of an accredited qualification and registration programme for Additional Support Needs assistants** with final proposals to be brought forward by autumn 2023.

- **review the current role of measures and indicators associated with Curriculum for Excellence** with a view to ensuring an appropriate balance between quality assurance and improvement within learning with sustainable workloads for teachers.
- establish a regular cycle of **collaborative review for Curriculum for Excellence**, and the measures and indicators that underpin our understanding of progress, to deliver continuous improvement, and ensure that schools and teachers are resourced to deliver it.
- establish a **guarantee of access, in school, to the mental health and wellbeing support** that young people need, including counselling services.
- support the **recruitment of at least 3,500 additional teachers and 500 classroom assistants** over and above the 1,400 teachers recruited during the pandemic. This will mean that by the end of the parliament there will be almost 5,000 more teachers in our schools than before the pandemic.
- support **constructive and progressive discussion and debate on education matters in the Scottish Parliament and wider society**, to move forward in the best interests of Scotland's children and young people and with a focus on working together.

We also agree that the re-established Scottish Education Council and newly created Children and Young People's Education Council will be key stakeholder engagement and advisory groups for the above, including in support of the independent advisor and his expert panel in respect of the reform of education agencies and the inspection function. We will collaborate to ensure these councils are structured to achieve their maximum potential.

## **Establishment of a National Care Service**

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that transformation of Scotland's social care system, by delivering the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, is required to help everyone in Scotland to reach their potential. This will include the establishment of a National Care Service, a totemic policy issue that will take the full parliamentary session to implement.

We therefore agree to promote and support the **consultation on establishing a National Care Service and, led by the needs of service users, will co-design and support the resulting legislation and accompanying guidance**. We aim to introduce this by June 2022 delivering:

- a rights based, person centred, and user led approach to social care.
- consistent and fair access to high quality care and support.
- ethical commissioning that promotes fair work and climate change ambitions.
- the abolition of non-residential social care charges.
- improved national accountability, where Ministers are responsible for the delivery of adult social care services as they are for health services.
- an ability for the Scottish Government to be able to direct and set standards to improve outcomes for people, while ensuring appropriate local input and engagement.
- that commissioned and procured services are centred on ethical commissioning, which will be quality and individual outcome focused, collaborative, person-centred and human rights based.

We also agree that:

- the transformation must be informed by the voices of lived experience, including those who access support and care, the workforce and unpaid carers.
- Fair Work progress for the social care workforce must continue as a priority in tandem with transformation. We therefore commit, in line with the recommendation of Independent Review of Adult Social Care, where possible, to a system of national collective bargaining on pay, terms and conditions within the social care sector.
- through national bargaining on pay we will deliver improved pay and conditions, building from the minimum pay standard of the real living wage for all direct care staff. This will include the aim of greater security of contracts and improved access to training and continuous development.
- workforce representatives, which may include trade unions, will be involved in the governance of the service, including through full membership of Community Health and Social Care Boards.
- bringing the pay, terms and conditions of nursing staff working within the care sector in line with those in the NHS is a shared ambition. We will review the options available to do this.

- a guarantee of short breaks and flexible healthcare appointments for unpaid carers is progressed at pace.
- consistency in delivery of self-directed support should be raised to ensure greater person centred and led delivery.
- consistent provision of bereavement advice services should be provided to unpaid carers and care workers.
- ongoing and regular engagement at a local level, with all partners, will be necessary to ensure effective system re-design and stability of services for people throughout the transformation period.
- in establishing a National Care Service, including any transfer of financial resources from local authorities to reformed integration boards, we shall take into consideration the impact on local authorities' ability to resource and deliver other services.

## Mental health

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party agree that mental health is a shared priority. We recognise the significant impact of the pandemic on the nation's mental health, particularly that of children and young people. As well as a focus on improving mental health services, there must be a shift towards prevention and early intervention. This will, in turn, reduce demand and waiting times for clinical services by ensuring the right mental health support is available across all levels of need, including:

- promoting and supporting the conditions for good mental health and wellbeing at population level.
- providing accessible signposting to help, advice and support.
- providing a rapid and easily accessible response to those in distress.
- ensuring safe, effective treatment and care of people living with mental illness.

The actions set out below will play a fundamental part in ensuring the right help is available in the right place for anyone who needs it, at the right time, as we recover from the pandemic.

We will:

- **increase spending on mental health services** to 10% of the total frontline NHS budget by the end of this parliamentary session.
- work with health boards to **ensure at least 1% of all frontline spend goes on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services** by the end of this parliamentary session.
- **double the budget for community based mental wellbeing services for children and young people** to £30 million.
- increase the focus on **raising awareness and understanding of mental health and mental wellbeing issues, both in schools and colleges**, and across the wider public sector. In particular, we will embed our Mental Health knowledge and skills framework developed by NHS Education Scotland to support the training of all staff working with children and young people, as well as our new, free professional learning resource.
- **expand community provision of mental health services linked to GP practices**, providing assessment as well as help and support for underlying issues and problems, including access to community assets such as support groups, social activities and exercise. We will ensure that, by the end of this parliamentary session, every GP practice has a link worker and access to an assigned community-based mental health clinician.
- **develop a long-term mental health workforce plan** in the first half of this parliamentary session.
- set out a **refreshed and refocused set of consolidated mental health commitments** in 2022 to reflect the current mental health and wellbeing needs of the people of Scotland. This will include a review and refresh of the Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027.

## Gender Identity Services

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that the needs of the trans community, including non-binary people, are an important shared priority. Waiting times for Gender Identity Services need to be improved, as long waiting times adversely impact one of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

We will reform the current model of Gender Identity Services to meet the needs of the community, recognising the challenges the NHS faces. In doing so we will listen to the voices of lived experience, especially those who access these services, their

families and organisations which represent the trans community. We will also engage with clinical stakeholders and NHS Boards to ensure effective and sustainable outcomes are achieved.

We will centrally fund Gender Identity Services ('GIS') until late 2024. A plan for permanent transformation of the service will also be developed, published by late 2021 and implemented in 2022-24. This plan will improve access to and delivery of GIS over the next three years, including:

- adopting a **human rights based, person centred and multidisciplinary approach** to improving trans healthcare provision.
- bringing GIS within **national waiting times standards**.
- improving **support to those waiting on a GIS appointment**, including peer support.
- examining, in conjunction with the upcoming revised Gender Reassignment Protocol for Scotland, **different models of delivering GIS**, with models to be adopted based on the principles of Realistic Medicine.
- ensuring that the **newly improved services are accessible** to trans, including non-binary, people.



## Our natural environment

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The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party agree that Scotland must urgently play its full part in tackling the twin global crises of climate and nature.

We commit to a Natural Environment Bill aiming at introduction in year three of this parliamentary session. This will follow on from the new biodiversity strategy which is due to be published in 2022.

The Bill will:

- put in place **key legislative changes to restore and protect nature**, including, but not restricted to, targets for nature restoration that cover land and sea, and an effective, statutory, target-setting monitoring, enforcing and reporting framework.
- contain targets based on **an overarching goal of preventing any further extinctions of wildlife and halting declines by 2030**, and making significant progress in restoring Scotland's natural environment by 2045.
- contain targets that are achievable and challenging, reflecting the priority for early action in this agreement. These targets will be developed in consideration of available evidence and through consultation, and are expected to include **outcome targets that accommodate species abundance, distribution & extinction risk, and habitat quality and extent**. The targets will reflect the challenges of a changing climate.
- cover key actions to deliver our targets, including **our agreement to protect 30% of Scotland's land and seas by 2030, and highly protect 10%**.

These targets, like our climate targets, will drive action across Government, including farming and fisheries policies and legislation.

The development of proposals for a Natural Environment Bill will reflect emerging policy in the EU and the results of the CoP15 on Biodiversity, in order to ensure Scotland remains in step with our European neighbours and delivers our commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We will agree a new approach to ensuring the interests of future generations are accountable in decisions made today, including exploring a Future Generations Commission.

We recognise that halting the declines means we need to invest in the restoration of the natural environment now for the sake of future generations. This means ensuring nature restoration and the principles of regenerative agriculture are a key aim of the reformed agricultural support scheme, and it means investing more through the nature restoration fund.

The Nature Restoration Fund, established this year following an agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party, will be expanded over the duration of this parliamentary session and encompass multi-year funding. It will make an important contribution to meeting our targets and restoring Scotland's terrestrial and marine environment through, for example, restoring and expanding our Atlantic rainforests, and the establishment of nature networks across Scotland.

We agree that a review of environmental justice and the case for an environmental court should take place during this parliamentary session, undertaken in line with section 41 of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 and to commence by Spring 2023.

## National parks

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that our National Parks bring many positive benefits to our environment and our economy.

We believe National and Regional parks have an important role to play in protecting Scotland's landscapes, restoring our environment and opening up access to quality greenscape to all.

We believe that National Parks should be designated only in response to local community demand, so we encourage communities, stakeholders and local government to come forward with proposals, which we would expect to accommodate progressive land use, be smaller in scale than existing parks and to demonstrate good value for money.

**We will designate at least one new National Park by the end of this session,** provided relevant legal conditions can be met. This will support progressive development, address the climate emergency in the way we use our land, and improve public and community wellbeing. We will make funding available to support these ambitions.

We also agree to increase the amount of funding available to improve visitor facilities, safety measures and access opportunities, including in existing regional parks.

## Agriculture

The Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party believe that Scotland should be a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture. We will ensure the sector makes the emission reductions required to contribute to Scotland's world-leading emissions targets, to support and deliver nature restoration and a just transition to net zero, and to produce high quality food.

We therefore agree to build on the work done by the government in this area during the last parliamentary session, through the Farmer-led Groups and the Farming and Food Production Future Policy Group, and the Climate Change Plan update as well as work done by others, including Farming for 1.5, WWF, the Scottish Food Coalition and Just Transition Commission.

We will work with the sector and stakeholders to bring forward a consultation on the options for future agriculture and wider land use support through **a Bill to replace the current Common Agricultural Policy framework** for agriculture and land use support. The Bill will be introduced in 2023 to deliver:

- a new support framework that will include delivering climate mitigation and adaptation, nature restoration and high quality food production.
- integration of enhanced conditionality against public benefits, with targeted outcomes for biodiversity gain and low emissions production.
- increased equality of opportunity, improving business resilience, efficiency and profitability.

We also agree that:

- we will ensure that farmers, crofters and land managers have the right support to deliver high farming standards and low emissions farming.
- we will continue to improve the rights of tenant farmers and small holders so they are not disadvantaged from actively participating in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- we will explore providing small landholders with the same pre-emptive right to buy as crofters and 1991 Act tenant farmers, and the treatment of the land under their houses.
- we will provide more support for women in agriculture and for new and young entrants into farming.

- with a view to re-joining the EU, we will, where practicable, stay aligned with new EU measures and policy developments ensuring Scotland prioritises the transition to net zero, the restoration of nature and the sustainable production of high quality food.
- we will support the necessary change in land use in Scotland in line with the recommendations of the Just Transition Commission.
- we will support the growth of the organic farming sector through the establishment of a new Organic Food and Farming Action Plan with ambitious targets for at least the doubling of the area of land under organic management by the end of this parliamentary session.

## Regional Land Use Partnerships

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUPs) can help to facilitate the land use change needed to address the twin environmental and climate crises, and support a just transition. To deliver their potential, RLUPs need to be democratic inclusive and local, which is why the Scottish Government launched a set of full-scale pilot RLUPs this year to test and develop ways to:

- take a democratic, inclusive and local approach to governance and decision-making.
- adopt a natural capital approach to land use change.
- produce Regional Land Use Frameworks which can meet national as well as regional priorities.
- maximise their influence in engaging regional stakeholders.

If the five pilots established this year can demonstrate that they meet expectations relating to the above, and show that they have taken a democratic, local approach, we will:

- develop plans **for a second phase from 2023** building on learning from the five pilots, aiming for further roll out across the country before the future rural support scheme is established.
- ensure that RLUPs take into consideration **the delivery of statutory climate and nature targets** on a regional basis.

- consider how RLUPs can influence public funding streams.

## Forestry and woodlands

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that forestry and the restoration of Scotland's native woodlands are a key growth area for Scotland, and crucial to delivering on our climate change targets, tackling the biodiversity crisis, and generating sustainable economic activity in our rural communities.

We want to expand Scotland's forests through significant investment in ambitious woodland creation targets, balancing productive forestry and native woodlands. These new forests will bring a range of benefits including green, sustainable jobs, proven carbon sequestration, improved biodiversity, and the opportunity for everyone in Scotland to enjoy the physical and mental health advantages of easy access to high-quality forests and woodlands.

We therefore agree to increase woodland creation in line with existing recently increased targets, and to explore opportunities to go further and faster, particularly on nature restoration. Specifically, we will:

- increase **annual woodland creation targets to 18,000 hectares per year by 2024/25**. We will increase the annual native woodland creation target from 3000 to 4000 hectares and commit to setting evidence-based targets for both native woodlands and natural regeneration as part of the 2022 Biodiversity Strategy.
- increase Forestry Land Scotland's capacity to **grow the public forest through the acquisition of land, particularly in National and Regional Parks**, by increasing capital funding. This is woodland that is owned by the public, for the public, for the long-term. This prioritises access, nature restoration and protection and other public benefits.
- further protect Scotland's ancient woods through **establishing a National Register of Ancient Woodlands**, and by encouraging owners and managers to maintain them and improve their condition, providing support through the Forestry Grant Scheme.

We also agree:

- to consult on ways to increase easily accessible, sustainably managed woodlands, including native woodlands, in urban or peri-urban areas, as part of a just transition.

- to explore the opportunities to pilot landscape-scale projects involving natural regeneration of woodlands, possibly within the existing National and Regional Parks.
- to support public sector bodies, as part of their statutory duty under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018, to identify and implement opportunities to increase tree cover on land they own and manage, with an emphasis on native woodland and natural regeneration. We will explore if further legislative changes are required to strengthen the duty on public bodies.
- to ensure that the replacement for the Common Agricultural Policy ring-fences funds for tree planting, orchard creation, and woodland regeneration, as well as support for the development of rural businesses linked with forestry.
- that the recommendations of the Deer Management Working Group will be implemented as set out in the Scottish Government's response of March 2021, and agricultural support schemes will encourage a reduction in grazing pressure in the uplands.

## Land reform

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party have longstanding commitments to land reform and believe that continued progress on land reform is essential. There should be a more diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure and a significantly higher proportion of land should be owned in Scotland by the communities that live and work there, as well as land held for the public good by the public sector.

We therefore agree that there shall be a wide-ranging consultation on land reform proposals with a spectrum of stakeholders for inclusion in a Land Reform Bill to be introduced by the end of 2023.

Recognising that devolved competence constrains what we can do, we aim to deliver legal mechanisms **to tackle scale and concentration of land ownership in rural and urban Scotland**. This will include a public interest test to apply to transfers of particularly large scale land holdings which will include a right of pre-emption in favour of community buy out where the public interest test applies.

We agree that the **Scottish Land Fund** be doubled from £10 million to £20 million per annum by the end of this parliamentary session.

We also agree:

- that every opportunity should be taken to ensure that Scotland’s people are able to live and work sustainably on our land and that communities benefit from the land use changes necessary to address the twin environmental and climate crises, and support a just transition.
- that rural repopulation is a vital objective, alongside nature-based solutions.

## Aquaculture

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that Scotland should have a sustainable, diverse, competitive and economically viable aquaculture industry. It must operate within environmental limits and with social licence and ensure there is a thriving marine ecosystem for future generations.

We agree with the Scottish Parliament’s Rural Economy and Connectivity and Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committees that the status quo of aquaculture regulation is not an option.

We will:

- **reform the regulatory and planning framework**, starting with an independent review to consider the effectiveness and efficiency of the current regime and make recommendations for further work by the end of 2021.
- develop a **vision and strategy for sustainable aquaculture** that places an enhanced emphasis on environmental protection and community benefits.
- begin an **immediate programme of work to better protect wildlife and the environment**, including a response to the Salmon Interactions Working Group in September 2021, consultation on a spatially adaptive sea lice risk assessment framework for fish farms by the end of the year, and strengthened controls on sea lice, wrasse and fish escapes in the course of 2021/22.
- explore how best to **ensure that fish farming contributes more to support communities** and recreational fisheries, to promote innovation and to support services such as fish health and welfare inspections and monitoring.

## Marine protection

The Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party believe that the marine environment should be clean, healthy, safe, productive and diverse, and managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people.

As part of this vision we are determined to make a step change in marine protection and to deliver on our shared commitment to achieve and maintain good environmental status for all of Scotland's seas, offshore and inshore. The measures we have agreed for enhanced marine protection will make Scotland an international leader in this field.

We specifically commit to restoring marine habitats in Scotland's inshore waters, with the aim of achieving good environmental status, recognising that those waters contain valuable blue carbon hot spots, nursery grounds for fish stocks and an array of rich marine wildlife and biodiversity.

We will:

- deliver **fisheries management measures for existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** where these are not already in place, as well as key coastal biodiversity locations outside of these sites, by March 2024 at the latest, directly following the conclusion of the required statutory consultation processes. These measures will give protection for MPA features, as well as those priority marine features identified as most at risk from bottom-contacting mobile fishing gear outwith MPAs.
- add to the existing MPA network by **designating a world-leading suite of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) covering at least 10% of our seas** that:
  - includes designations in both offshore and inshore waters,
  - exceeds the commitment to 'strict protection' by 2030 made in the EU biodiversity strategy by achieving this by 2026 for inshore waters (in respect of which Scottish Ministers have devolved powers) and, subject to the cooperation of the UK Government, by the same year for offshore waters (where the Scottish Parliament does not have legislative competence),
  - will provide additional environmental protection over and above the existing MPA network (including when all management measures are applied in MPAs as outlined above), by establishing sites which will provide protection from all extractive, destructive or depositional activities including all fisheries, aquaculture and other infrastructure developments, while allowing other activities, such as tourism or recreational water activities, at non-damaging levels (making them equivalent to 'marine parks'), and
  - in cases where these sites overlap with current MPAs, provide extra environmental protection additional to that afforded by existing MPAs. Our clear



common purpose is to deliver a significant total increase in the level of environmental protection applicable to Scotland's seas, in support of achieving and maintaining good environmental status for our waters.

- take specific, evidence-based measures to **protect the inshore seabed in areas outwith MPAs and HPMAs**. As an interim step, we will consult as soon as practicable on proposals to:

- apply a cap to fishing activity in inshore waters (up to three nautical miles) that will limit activity to current levels and set a ceiling from which activities that disrupt the seabed can be reduced in the light of evidence as it becomes available,

- keep that limit under review, pending fuller consideration and gathering of evidence to underpin any further actions required to protect inshore marine habitats. These could span a suite of options and could potentially include spatial management measures if suggested by the evidence,

- through this system, provide access only to vessels that hold a licence which has a historic track record of fishing activity in inshore waters over a recent reference period,

- in the first instance and in the interests of delivering this as soon as possible, bring this measure into effect by varying certain existing licence conditions pending the introduction of appropriate legislative measures, and

- also review the status of any unused 'latent' scallop fishing entitlements. Where no investment has already been made to activate that entitlement, such as vessel conversion in cases where an owner has committed to changing fishing method, these entitlements would be revoked.

We will deliver the suite of HPMAs through a policy and selection framework that provides for:

- **balanced representation of the ecology of Scotland's seas** and their geographical spread from the coast to the deep sea, encompassing both inshore and offshore environments.

- **the recovery of priority marine features**, which mostly lie within inshore waters, as a core purpose of the designation criteria.

- **ecosystem recovery and biodiversity enhancement**, including protection of blue carbon and critical fish habitats.

- **account to be taken of socio-economic factors** affecting the resilience and viability of marine industries and the coastal communities which depend on them.
- **public engagement and consultation** at all key stages of policy development, site selection and assessment, and designation.

This package of measures for MPAs and HPMA within the inshore area will be delivered within the legislative framework set by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and in accordance with Scotland's National Marine Plan, as well as through new provisions, as required, included within the Natural Environment Bill to be delivered in the third year of this parliamentary session. The 2010 framework enshrines an evidence-based approach. We will ensure that comprehensive evidence continues to be gathered to inform our decisions and we will continue to develop the evidence base to underpin future decision-making.

We will ensure more effective compliance by extending the requirement for Vessel Tracking and Monitoring Systems across the whole commercial fishing fleet by the end of the current parliamentary session, and increasing capacity and capability in marine monitoring and protection.

We will be guided by just transition principles and will establish a programme to address socio-economic impacts on affected marine industries.

We commit to delivering HPMA designations that lie within devolved legislative competence (in inshore waters) by 2026 and we call on the UK Government to work with us to enable delivery of HPMA designations in Scotland's offshore waters within the same timeframe.

While Scottish Ministers currently have some executively devolved powers in the offshore zone, the Scottish Parliament does not have legislative competence over marine environmental matters in this zone and the Scottish Government is therefore dependant on the UK Government to provide the necessary powers. In this regard, we jointly call on the UK Government to correct this longstanding anomaly in the devolution settlement by agreeing to full devolution of legislative competence in this area.

We also recognise that where HPMA designations require the relocation of human activity there may in some instances be a need for a transitional 'phasing out' period following the point of designation, to ensure a fair and just transition to a state of high protection. Any such period would be time-limited with a clear end point.

## Species protection

We will review the wider species licensing system with a view to ensuring that the law is being applied correctly and that lethal control is only licensed where the conditions required for such a licence are demonstrably being met.

The review will also assess the potential to apply the principle of full cost recovery to species licensing and the introduction of a public register of licenses to improve transparency, bearing in mind data protection and safety of licence holders.

We agree that urgent action is needed to tackle wildlife crime and to address the environmental impacts of intensive grouse moor management.

We will support the transition to more economically and environmentally productive uses of land where appropriate and **deliver the recommendations of the Grouse Moor Management Review Group** as a matter of urgency, including the licensing of grouse moors.

Licensing or further regulation will cover the key areas identified in the review, including muirburn, wildlife control, the use of medicated grit and wildlife crime. Licensing will be supported by clear penalties to encourage compliance, as well as additional effort to detect wildlife crime.

The independent taskforce to **consider whether the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Scottish SPCA) should be given extra powers** to investigate wildlife crime will be asked to report back by in a timeframe that will allow any changes to the Scottish SPCA powers to be delivered by legislation implementing changes to grouse and other wildlife management in the course of this parliamentary session.

We support the continued expansion of the beaver population. Where practicable, more use will be made of translocation of beavers, including considering other locations in Scotland. Financial and practical support will be made available to facilitate translocation.

## Good Food Nation Bill

The Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party believe that Scotland should continue to be a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve and eat each day.

We therefore agree that the Good Food Nation Bill, to be introduced this parliamentary session, will:

- underpin, on a statutory basis, the work that is already being done across the Scottish Government to **support the Good Food Nation policy**.
- place duties on the **Scottish Ministers and certain public authorities to produce statements of policy in relation to food** and make provision as to the effect of those statements.
- require those statements to set out the main outcomes to be achieved in relation to food-related issues, the policies needed to do this and the indicators or other measures required to assess progress.

We also agree that:

- the Ministerial Working Group on Food should be reinstated.
- a Human Rights Bill will be brought forward which will give effect to international human rights law in Scots law, including a right to adequate food, as part of the overall right to an adequate standard of living.
- consideration should be given to the need for a statutory body, such as a Food Commission.



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