

## Central Scotland Manifesto 2021

A vote for the SNP is a vote for serious and experienced leadership, a programme to kick-start the recovery and, once the COVID crisis is over, a choice over Scotland's future. Here's what we'll do for Central Scotland.

### INVEST IN OUR HEALTH SERVICE

- We will increase frontline NHS spending by **at least 20%** to support and renew our NHS as it recovers from Covid-19. This will increase funding of frontline services by over **£2.5 billion**.
- We will ensure that **half of the total budget for frontline NHS services will be invested in community and primary care** so that more people can be cared for more conveniently and quickly.
- We will ensure **every GP practice in the country has access to a dedicated mental wellbeing link worker**.
- We will **implement an NHS recovery plan** to restore paused services, ensure urgent care is delivered swiftly, catch up on treatments that have had to be delayed, and bring waiting times back within targets.
- To help renew our NHS we aim to **invest £10 billion over the next decade** to replace and refurbish health facilities across Scotland. That will include:
  - Renewing or upgrading primary and community facilities, for example the **Falkirk Community Hospital**.
  - Renewing acute and general hospital facilities to keep them fit for the future, including **building the new Monklands Hospital** at Wester Moffat.
- To aid our recovery from the pandemic and see that we have the elective capacity we need for the future we will also take forward **two additional elective centres - one of which will be in Cumbernauld**.
- We will establish a **fast track cancer diagnostic centre in every health board area** to help better support patients with non-specific symptoms suspicious of cancer.
- **£190 million** - in partnership with local government - for the major roads programme which will join the M74 in the south with the M80 in the north.
- **£2 billion** - in partnership with local government - in a **Learning Estate Investment Programme**, building on the investment this SNP government has already made in, for instance, Greenfaulds High School in North Lanarkshire and Carrongrange High School in Falkirk.
- **£40 million** in the **Falkirk Growth Deal** with a further £10 million specifically for green recovery projects.
- The SNP will invest **£275 million** to support community-led regeneration and town centre revitalisation with **funding available across Central Scotland**.
- We will assess options for **direct links to international markets from our ports and airports in the region** - reducing dependency on the 'short straits' and airports in the South East of England - to provide cost effective options for Scottish exporters.
- We have established a **Grangemouth Future Industry Board to support a Just Transition** - promoting economic activity while advancing the move to a low-carbon future.

### INVEST IN EDUCATION AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

### BOOST OUR ECONOMY AND CREATE JOBS

- We will invest over **£33 billion over the next five years** in our National Infrastructure Mission, supporting an estimated **45,000 jobs** and providing benefits across Scottish supply chains. In Central Scotland, we will invest:
  - In the last year alone, the SNP has provided a free school meal to **over 24,000 pupils in the Central Scotland Region**. We will go even further and make sure no child is hungry in the classroom by **providing free school breakfasts and lunches to every primary school pupil, all year round**.

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- We will **renew every play park** in Central Scotland, so that all children have access to quality play in their own community, **backed by £60 million**.
- We will expand our digital learning offer to **develop a National Digital Academy**, ending the postcode lottery of subject choice, and enabling people to study for their Highers later in life, in their own time, fitting it around work or caring commitment.

## BUILD A FAIRER SOCIETY

- Child poverty is in every part of Scotland. We want to lift children out of poverty in Central Scotland – that’s why we will **double the Scottish Child Payment to £20 per child by the end of parliament and nearly double the planned investment in the Parental Employability Support Fund**.
- **We will build a wraparound childcare system** providing care before and after school, all year round, where the least well-off families will pay nothing.

## INVEST IN HOUSING, TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY

- Since taking office, we have **delivered 96,750 affordable homes**, nearly 67,000 of which were for social rent – including **over 30,500 in Central Scotland**. We will deliver a **further 100,000 affordable homes by 2032**, backed by investment of £3.5 billion over the parliament – supporting 14,000 jobs a year.
- We will give **renters more protection from unreasonable rent hikes** by empowering local authorities to cap rents.
- We will **bring Scotrail into public hands** from next year.
- We will work to **reinstate or develop new railway commuter lines in urban areas**, delivering enormous benefits to communities and the regional economy, in terms of sustainable tourism and to meet our green travel objective.
- Work is underway to **electrify the East Kilbride rail line** as part of our ambitious plans to **decarbonise Scotland’s rail passenger services by 2035**.
- We will work with Network Rail to deliver a **fully accessible relocated Hairmyres station** and undertake **feasibility studies for Shotts and Hartwood stations**.

- Our £579 million investment in the expansion of superfast broadband means **every home and business in Central Scotland will have access by 2023**.

## WORK TOWARDS NET ZERO

- We will take real action to transform how we heat our homes, to increase renewable energy and to invest in hydrogen as a fuel source, we will revolutionise our transport system electrifying our rail lines, switching to electric vehicles, increasing active travel and investing in green jobs and industries for the future.
- We will ensure that every Local Authority area will have a **Nature Network of new, locally driven projects which aim to improve ecological connectivity across Scotland**.
- We will continue to work with and support the **Central Scotland Green Network**.
- Over five years we will provide an **additional £100 million** to Scottish Forestry to increase new planting, £30 million to Forestry and Land Scotland to expand Scotland’s national forests and land, and a further £20 million will go to increase nursery stocks.

## PROMOTE CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND SPORT

- We will protect free access to our National Galleries and Museums, including the **National Museum of Rural Life in East Kilbride**, and continue to fund non-national museums and galleries through support for Museums & Galleries Scotland.
- Taking Wigtown, Scotland’s National Book Town, as a model, we will extend the reach of the arts by launching an **open competition for further National Towns of Culture** for example, Scotland’s National Live Music Town, Folk and Trad Town, or Visual Art Town.
- We will **create a ‘Fan Bank’** to empower communities and groups and strengthen local decision-making by **supporting communities to acquire a share or control of their local sports club**.
- We will **double the Scottish Government’s investment in sport and active living to £100 million a year by the end of the Parliament** to help Scotland get more active.