

## Lothian 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 Lothian.

### 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.
- We will roll out **more mobile health services** for direct delivery of care, particularly in rural areas. This will include additional screening services, stroke units and mental health services.
- 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 replacing:
  - The **east of Scotland regional cancer centre at the Western General Hospital** in Edinburgh
  - The **Edinburgh Eye Pavilion**
- Our elective centre programme of construction and development is under way and includes **a centre at St John's Hospital in Livingston**.
- 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.

### 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 Lothian, we will invest:

- **£300 million in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deals** including **£10 million** to support cutting edge research in future technologies, **£45 million** to support and enable construction of **41,000 new homes** and **£25 million** for a skills programme that will improve the skills of an estimated **14,700 people**.
- Up to **£58 million** in the **Biomes project at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh** to transform the garden's estate.
- **£10 million** Scottish Water investment to **upgrade Seafield Waste Water Treatment Works**.
- The SNP will invest **£275 million** to support community-led regeneration and town centre revitalisation with **funding available across the Lothian region**.
- We will **create a new 'Tech-Scaler' hub in Edinburgh** and ensure that the commercial education on offer in the hubs is accessible virtually to ensure access for businesses in rural areas.
- When it is safe to do so, we will **launch a campaign to encourage people to support local tourism and hospitality in Scotland**.
- To support the recommendations of the Tourism Recovery Taskforce, we will **create a £25 million fund** to help build a strong recovery, including providing **thousands of vouchers for short breaks and days out to carers, people with disabilities and families on low incomes**.

## INVEST IN EDUCATION AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Over the next parliament we will **invest £2 billion - in partnership with local government - in a Learning Estate Investment Programme**, including:
  - Wallyford High School and Whitecraig Primary School
  - Currie Community High School
  - Beatlie Additional Support Needs Campus
  - Liberton High School
  - Wester Hailes Education Centre
  - Mayfield Primary School Campus
  - East Calder Primary School
- We will **support the development of additional GME primary schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians as an important step towards the creation of a standalone GME secondary school in central Edinburgh.**
- In the last year alone, the SNP has provided a free school meal to **over 21,000 pupils in the Lothian 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.**

## BUILD A FAIRER SOCIETY

- Child poverty is in every part of Scotland. We want to lift children out of poverty in the Lothians - 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.
- We will invest an additional **£50 million** over the next parliamentary term to **end homelessness and rough sleeping.**

## 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 38,000 in the Lothian region.** 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 and **decarbonise Scotland's rail services by 2035.**
- We will work to **reinstate or develop new railway branch lines across rural Scotland and 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.
- We are **supportive of Edinburgh's decision to extend the city's trams.**
- Our £579 million investment in the expansion of superfast broadband means **every home and business in the Lothian region 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.**

## PROMOTE CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

- We will **continue the highly successful EXPO fund for Edinburgh's major festivals**, reviewing how it can continue to meet its aims of ensuring our Festivals maintain their global competitive edge, increasing the funding available to Scottish artists and practitioners, and encouraging creative collaborations.
- We will protect free access to our **National Museums, including the National Museum of Scotland, the National War Museum Scotland at Edinburgh Castle** and our **National Galleries in Edinburgh**, and continue to fund non-national museums and galleries through support for Museums & Galleries Scotland.
- Building on the success of our **film studio in Leith**, we will continue to support **studio space and double skills provision**, boosting training, apprenticeships and skills opportunities.