

Mid Scotland and Fife 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 Mid Scotland and Fife.

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. This will include renewing or upgrading primary and community facilities, for example **Glenrothes Hospital**.
- Our elective centre programme of construction and development is underway, including **a centre at the Perth Royal Infirmary**.
- 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. **NHS Fife will be one of the first three and will be up and running by the end of May**.

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 Mid Scotland and Fife, we will invest:
 - **£45.1 million** towards the **Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal**, including £15 million to support culture, tourism and heritage across the region; £4 million to enhance digital connectivity in both urban and rural areas; over £9 million to projects that enhance skills, active travel and planning for the use of green energy; and a further £5 million to support the delivery of enabling infrastructure at Callander and Kildean.
 - **£150 million in the Tay Cities region deal** including, **£20 million** in a skills and employability programme, **£25 million** to grow the region's biomedical sector and **£37 million** to support the region's culture and tourism offerings.
- The SNP will invest **£275 million** to support community-led regeneration and town centre revitalisation with **funding available across Mid Scotland and Fife**.
- We will create opportunities for new businesses to grow and flourish in every part of Scotland. To breathe new life into the economies of rural Scotland we will **create a new, £20 million Rural Entrepreneur Fund** – this will provide **grants of up to £10,000 to support the creation of 2,000 new businesses**.

SUPPORT OUR RURAL ECONOMY

- We will transform support for farming and food production so that **by 2025 half of all funding for farmers and crofters comes with "green strings"**.
- We will create a new **£15 million fund to support food processing and manufacture to develop local supply chains and transition to low or zero carbon operations**.

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- We will **maintain our doubled investment in the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund at £6.2 million**, and invest **£10 million** in wider initiatives including **rural hotel infrastructure, and the deployment of Seasonal Rangers** to encourage responsible tourism in rural hot-spots.
- We will work with local authorities to develop a **Rural Visa Pilot** as a rural and remote migration initiative.

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:
 - Replacement school for Woodmill and St Columba's High Schools, part of the development of a new community campus
 - Inverkeithing High School
 - Perth High School
 - A new primary for the north end of Perth
 - Callander Primary School
- In the last year alone, the SNP has provided a free school meal to **over 18,000 pupils in Mid Scotland and Fife**. 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**.
- We will **continue our support for Sistema, including Big Noise Raploch, and the Youth Music Initiative**, but also look at how we can use these successful models to expand across other artforms.

BUILD A FAIRER SOCIETY

- Child poverty is in every part of Scotland. We want to lift children out of poverty in the Mid Scotland and Fife - 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 AND SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

- Since taking office, we have **delivered 96,750 affordable homes**, nearly 67,000 of which were for social rent - including **over 28,500 in the Mid Scotland and Fife 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.
- To stop depopulation and support our communities, we will **give local authorities the powers to manage the numbers of second homes in their area** and will work with Community Land Scotland so we can find the right land to deliver more housing in our rural areas.
- We will **bring Scotrail into public hands** from next year and **decarbonise Scotland's rail services by 2035**.
- We will work with regional transport partnerships to **reinstate or develop new railway branch lines across rural Scotland and commuter lines in urban areas**.
- We will **reopen the Levenmouth rail link in Fife**.
- We were the first Government to commit to **dualling the A9** and remain committed to completing this programme. This should be seen within the context of our commitment to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030.
- Our £579 million investment in the expansion of superfast broadband means **every home and business in Mid Scotland and Fife will have access in the next five years**, some areas by 2023.

WORK TOWARDS NET ZERO

- 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're investing **£100 million** to stimulate the hydrogen sector and its supply chain and, as part of that, we will support the Levenmouth demonstration project to **deliver a 100% hydrogen heat network**, supplying 300 domestic properties with clean, green hydrogen heating.
- We are providing **£6.9 million of funding for SGN's H100 project in Fife** which will be a **world-first** programme using **green hydrogen to heat around 300 local homes and create an estimated 100 jobs** in its first phase.