

North East 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 North East 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 establish a **24 hour mental health crisis centre in Dundee**.
- 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, including the **Insch War Memorial Hospital**.
 - Renewing acute and general hospital facilities to keep them fit for the future, including the completion of the **Baird Family Hospital and ANCHOR Centre in Aberdeen**.
 - Planning and enabling the refurbishment of hospitals, including **Ninewells Hospital in Dundee**.
- 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.
- We will create a **new centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care** to provide expertise and advice on the delivery of care in different rural, island, and remote settings in Scotland.

TACKLE SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND DRUG DEATHS

- A national mission is needed to tackle the drug death emergency. We will invest **£250 million over the lifetime of the parliament** to support a range of community-based interventions. **Dundee** will be at the heart of innovative drugs policy and we will advocate that it should be a **potential second site for heroin assisted treatment**.

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 the North East, we will invest:
 - **£180 million** in an **Emerging Energy Technologies Fund**
 - **£125 million in Aberdeen City and £150 million in the Tay Cities region deals**, delivering significant and lasting economic benefits for individuals, businesses and communities, creating jobs and up-skilling local labour markets;
- We will **invest an additional £32 million for local bridges maintenance** to rebuild and maintain key lifeline bridges.
- 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.
- The SNP will invest **£275 million** to support community-led regeneration and town centre revitalisation with **funding available across the North East**.
- A re-elected SNP Government would stand ready to work with the Aberdeen taskforce and all parties in the city to ensure Aberdeen City Centre is vibrant and attractive.
- We will **create new 'Tech-Scaler' hubs in Aberdeen and Dundee** and ensure that the commercial education on offer in these hubs is accessible virtually to ensure access for businesses in rural areas.
- We will **continue to invest in and support the transformation of the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc** to attract new businesses and to develop new low carbon transport and energy solutions.

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- We have established a **£62 million Energy Transition Fund** to support businesses in the oil, gas and energy sectors over the next five years as they grow and diversify, and help attract private sector investment in the region.
- In recognition of the difficulties facing the North East as a result of the pandemic and the oil downturn, we will **invest £15 million next year to support workers to retrain and learn new skills.**

SUPPORT OUR RURAL ECONOMY

- 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.**
- We will continue to support our fishing industry to recover from the Tories' Brexit betrayal and **press for the £62 million of marine funding Scotland is entitled to, to be fully allocated to Scotland,** and do all we can to **regain markets and opportunities** for our fish and seafood sector.
- We will **support local management of inshore fisheries, develop more sustainable fisheries pilots and increase inshore fishing opportunities.**
- We will create an explicit economic link between catching and landing, incentivising the landing of more fish in Scotland **creating more jobs and business opportunities onshore, especially in processing.**
- 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.

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.** This will include for example:
 - Peterhead Community Campus
 - Monifieth High School
 - Proposed new campus to replace Braeview Academy and Craigie High School.
- In the last year alone, the SNP has provided a free school meal to **over 19,500 pupils in the North East 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.**
- We will **continue our support for Sistema, including Big Noise Torry, 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 North East - 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 33,000 in the North East 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 work with regional transport partnerships to **reinstate or develop new railway branch lines across rural Scotland and commuter lines in urban areas.**
- We were the first Government to commit to dualling the A96 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 the North East region will have access in the next five years.**

WORK TOWARDS NET ZERO

- With particular focus on **Aberdeen and the North East,** our Energy Transition Scotland programme will ensure that **Scottish industry plays a leading role in the development and deployment of new, low carbon technologies,** like marine renewables, hydrogen and CCUS.
- We are committed to introducing Low Emission Zones in **Aberdeen and Dundee.**
- With the powers of independence, we are committed to ring fencing any revenues from oil and gas in a **Net Zero Fund** - helping to accelerate the transition to zero carbon energy, and **supporting areas like Aberdeen and the North East to diversify its economy.**

PROMOTE CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND SPORT

- We will **support V&A Dundee to become a National Centre for Design,** working in close partnership with organisations from across Scotland.
- We'll support the development of **Eden Project Dundee** - an exciting opportunity not just for the regeneration and recovery of tourism in the city but for Scotland.