

West 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 West 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.
- 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 mean planning and enabling the refurbishment of hospitals, including:
 - The **Royal Alexandra Hospital** in Paisley
 - The **Vale of Leven Hospital** in Alexandria.
- 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.
- 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.

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 West Scotland region, we will invest:

- Invest **£10 million** to complete the **National Secure Adolescent Inpatient Service in Irvine**;
- Invest **£110-114 million** to support construction of **two new major dual-fuel vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides network**;
- Conclude the **£75 million investment** in the **National Manufacturing Institute Scotland**;
- **Support Gourock Harbour and Vessel renewal** and Small Vessel Replacement programmes;
- **Continue to support Ferguson Marine** to improve business processes and outcomes.
- The SNP will invest **£275 million** to support community-led regeneration and town centre revitalisation with **funding available across the West Scotland region**.
- We will assess options for **direct links to international markets from Scotland's ports and airports in the West Scotland region** – reducing dependency on the 'short straits' and airports in the South East of England – to provide cost effective options for Scottish exporters.
- We will **develop a maritime strategy and set up a dedicated agency** to put our marine assets at the heart of the blue economy, **doubling turnover, GVA and international trade in a decade**. We will support the sustainable growth of marine tourism to **over £0.5 billion turnover by 2025**.
- 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

- We will invest a further **£1 billion to close the school attainment gap** and invest in children's wellbeing and with a programme of summer activities to allow them to socialise, play and reconnect.

- Over the next parliament we will invest **£2 billion - in partnership with local government - in a Learning Estate Investment Programme**, including:
 - Replacements for Neilston Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School
 - Ardrossan Community Learning and Innovation Hub
 - Montgomerie Park Primary School
 - Paisley Grammar Community Campus
 - Faifley Campus
- In the last year alone, the SNP has provided a free school meal to **over 20,000 pupils in the West 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**.
- We will **renew every play park** in the West Scotland region 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 the West Scotland region - 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 25,000 in the West Scotland 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**, delivering enormous benefits to communities and the regional economy, in terms of sustainable tourism and to meet our green travel objective.
- We will explore the potential to build more fixed links to island and remote communities, such as the **potential for a bridge from Gourrock to Dunoon**.
- We will **invest in more sustainable ferries**, reducing the carbon footprint of our ferry fleet. We are committed to 30% of state-owned ferries being low emission by 2032.
- Ferries provide a truly lifeline service for the islands they serve, and we are **committed to funding these services and maintaining Road Equivalent Tariff** on all current island ferry routes.
- Our **£579 million** investment in the expansion of superfast broadband means **every home and business in the West of 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**.

PROMOTE CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND SPORT

- 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.