

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010



**A future
fair for all**

Contents

**Foreword
from Gordon Brown**

Introduction

Securing Britain's future

Rebuilding our economy

Chapter 1 1:1
 **Growth:**
Building the high-growth
economy of the future

Chapter 2 2:1
 **Living standards:**
Prosperity for all
not just a few

Protecting public services and strengthening society

Chapter 3 3:1
 **Education:**
Excellence in education:
giving every child the
chance to fulfil their
potential

Chapter 4 4:1
 **Health:**
World leading
healthcare: a patient-
centred NHS

Chapter 5 5:1
 **Crime and immigration:**
Strengthening our
communities, securing
our borders

Chapter 6 6:1
 **Families and older
people:**
Supporting Families
throughout life

Chapter 7 7:1
 **Communities and
creative Britain:**
Active and creative
communities

Chapter 8 8:1
 **A green recovery:**
A green future
for Scotland

A new politics

Chapter 9 9:1
 **Democratic reform:**
A new politics -
renewing our democracy
and rebuilding trust

Chapter 10 10:1
 **A global future:**
Meeting the challenges
of the new global age

50 steps to a fairer future for all 11:1

Foreword from Gordon Brown

This General Election is fought as our troops are bravely fighting to defend the safety of the British people and the security of the world in Afghanistan. They bring great pride and credit to our country: we honour and will always support them.

At the same time the world has been rocked by the first great crisis of the new global economic age.

In Britain, the political crisis caused by expenses has undermined the bond of trust between the people and the politicians elected to serve them.

So this cannot, and will not, be a 'business as usual' election or Manifesto. In this Manifesto we set out plans to address the main future challenges we face in our economy, our society and our politics. We will rebuild the economy to secure the recovery and invest in future growth and jobs. We will renew our society to further strengthen the communities that bind our country together. And we will restore trust in politics with greater transparency and accountability in a system battered by the expenses scandal.

This programme for further national renewal meets the big challenges of the age. Our Manifesto is ambitious but affordable, bold but realistic, and learns from the lessons we take from our experience to date. Over the next ten years we will confront major challenges - intensive global competition, climate change, an ageing society, and bringing stability to Afghanistan. This is a moment for good judgement and serious purpose to meet the challenges ahead.

Our aim is a modern, progressive Britain based on fairness, respect, decency and openness.

This is a Manifesto about the greater progressive change we need because of the tougher times we are living through. There are no big new spending commitments, but there is a determination for every penny to be used wisely, and, as present plans make clear, to give the maximum protection to frontline public services.

This is a moment to show greater boldness in response to what Britain has gone through and the toll it has taken. We reject a 'business as usual' mentality because we have to re-build and re-balance the economy, as well as renew our society and politics. Reform cannot stand still – not least because we need to get more value and delivery from public services in a period of public spending constraint. Our Manifesto charts an optimistic course in tougher economic times. It builds on and takes forward the reforms we have undertaken since 1997.

I love Britain and want the very best for our country. This Manifesto is my pledge of a future fair for all.



Gordon Brown
Prime Minister

Introduction

The argument of this Manifesto is that to deliver a future fair for all we need to rebuild our economy, protect and reform our public services as we strengthen our society and renew our politics.

Scottish Labour will fight every election on our commitment to all those things which matter most to Scottish families and workers; the economy, jobs, crime, schools and hospitals. Devolution means that many of these issues are decided in the Scottish Parliament. Where responsibility is reserved to the UK Parliament, Labour will deliver the commitments made in this manifesto in the next Parliament. Where responsibility is devolved, Scottish Labour will endeavor to deliver for Scotland from opposition in the Scottish Parliament, a Parliament of minorities, as we have done on new apprenticeships for young Scots. We will carry these commitments through into the next Scottish Parliament.

We, Labour, are the people to carry out this next stage of renewal because of our values and our understanding of the role of government: to stand by ordinary people so they can change their lives for the better. It is our belief that it is active, reforming government, not

absent government, that helps make people powerful.

We are proud of our country and the way it has changed since 1997. It is just too easy to forget. Our public services were a byword for decline; today they have been transformed. Our large cities were reeling from two savage recessions; today, despite the global economic crisis, they have a renewed prosperity and civic pride. People were paid £1 an hour; today the minimum wage and tax credits provide the dignity of a living income.

The welfare state simply did not understand working women and families. Today, with family friendly working and better childcare it has at last begun to do so.

These changes happened because we applied our values to the world as it was then. We changed our party so that it connected to the hopes and aspirations of the British people.

We changed our country because we rejected the philosophy of the 1980s which said that government should just get out of the way and that we were in it just for ourselves.

We are proud of our record but today we are running for the future. We have to address

a world that is very different now, with major new challenges we must confront: fighting for our economic future in a tough competitive world, tackling climate change, improving public services amidst financial constraint, confronting the reality of international terrorism, adjusting to an ageing society so people can live longer and happier lives, and restoring trust in politics.

The global financial crisis shows we need to be bolder about reforming our financial markets and building our economic future on fairer, more solid foundations. To build on success in our public services, we need to protect investment in the front line and also be bold about putting citizens genuinely in control.

And we must be bold reformers of our politics: seizing this once in a generation opportunity to make Parliament properly accountable. In all these decisions, we offer progressive solutions in tough times. We do not measure the boldness of our programme by how much we spend but the results we achieve. By taking hard decisions, being guided at all times by a sense of fairness, we believe that we can continue to advance towards the good society in which we believe.

There is a big choice at this election about whether we confront these challenges and build the kind of economy, society and politics we believe in, or duck them. But to be able to meet these future challenges, there are some immediate decisions we need to get right now. Above all, we need to secure the economic recovery. Get it right and we can go on to build a strong economic future. Get it wrong and we will slip back into recession.

Labour believes we must not put the recovery at risk by reckless cuts to public spending this year.

From the autumn of 2008, big calls had to be made. We nationalised Northern Rock, protected people's savings, cut VAT to stimulate our economy, put in place job guarantees to get people back to work, and stepped in to stop repossession.

It is working. The banking system has been stabilised. Our economy is showing signs of returning to growth. Unemployment has, so far, risen by over 500,000 less than people expected this time last year. Repossessions are at around half the level of the 1990s.

The question at this election is whether people think the choice we made was the right one

and whether we use the power of government to help sustain recovery, or allow it to be snuffed out. Every government of the major developed economies – of Left and Right – recognises the need to support the economy while growth is still fragile. We will not cut spending this year, but instead support the economy to ensure recovery is established.

Labour believes we should rebuild our economy in new ways: with more high-tech business, fairer rewards and responsibility from all, including at the top.

The world changed out of all recognition in 2007 with the onset of the global economic crisis. Major British banks, the custodians of our savings and livelihoods, ran out of money because of the recklessness of those in charge. This Manifesto makes the case that there should be no return to business as usual. People have suffered too much with their jobs, livelihoods and confidence to allow a return to the same old ways. There is a desire not simply to correct for what went wrong, but to seize the opportunity to build anew. Financial services have been an essential job creator in Britain and will continue to be so. But our financial institutions left to themselves have undermined our economy.

We are enacting sweeping banking reform to prevent a repeat of the past; ensuring new support for the high-tech industries of the future, such as green industries; and taking action to forge a new culture of long-termism in business. It isn't markets or governments that create wealth – people do, through their own effort and hard work. So we will do more to support enterprise and to help those who want to build up a business and get on in life. Those who can work must do so and it needs to be properly valued. We will end for good the concept of a life on benefit by offering all those unemployed for more than two years work they must accept, and we will make work pay better with the goal of a minimum wage rising at least in line with average earnings and a guarantee that people will be better off in work than on benefit.

As we more than halve the fiscal deficit over the next four years, we will ensure that we do so in a fair way with a combination of a return to economic growth, cuts to lower priority programmes and fair tax rises. Responsibility at the top means people paying their fair share and we believe it is right that those with the broadest shoulders bear the greatest burden of paying down the deficit.

Labour believes we should protect frontline spending on schools, the NHS and policing.

Millions of people working in our public services embody the best values of Britain, helping empower people to make the most of their own lives while protecting them from the risks they should not have to bear on their own. Just as we need to be bolder about the role of government in making markets work fairly, we also need to be bold reformers of government.

For a decade we have combined investment and reform and improved our public services.

Now we need to rise to the challenge of achieving even higher standards in a period of constrained resources. We will drive forward our programme to strip out all waste, improve efficiency and get the most out of every pound spent. We recognize that investing more in priority areas will mean cutting back in others.

Above all we will build public services that are more personal to people's needs: with a clear commitment to quality, the ambition of tailoring services to individual needs and the concerns and aspiration of the hard-working majority at the heart of service delivery.

In health, this means halving the time from one month to two weeks to see a cancer specialist and get results. In education it means placing literacy and numeracy at the heart of our policy agenda because we are committed to providing opportunities which allow every child to reach their full potential. In creating safer communities, we will crack down on knife crime with mandatory minimum jail sentences for carrying a knife and we will place victims at the forefront of our judicial system.

Labour will strengthen our society, by protecting the things people value and demanding rights and responsibilities from all.

Our society is not broken; it is strong in many different ways. But it is changing fast. Changing with immigration, changing as people move more frequently, as young people grow up more quickly and older people live longer. We will protect the things people value: families, strong communities, local institutions. We will create a new settlement across the UK on how we care for the elderly through the creation of a National Care Service, and fathers will have more time off to spend with their kids. There will be greater protection for the local institutions people value, like local post offices and pubs.

In everything we do, we will demand the responsibilities that must come with rights: to work when you can, not to abuse your neighbour or neighbourhood, to show respect for Britain as a newcomer, to pay your fair share of tax.

Labour proposes radical reform of our democracy to reconnect politics to the people it should serve. Just as the global economic crisis was a shock to our economic system; the expenses crisis created turmoil in our political system. It revealed not just unacceptable behaviour by some MPs but also that our closed political system had lost touch with people. Once again, the response cannot be to try and return to business as usual.

We need fundamental reform of our politics to make it more accountable. We will let the people decide how to reform our institutions and our politics: changing the voting system and electing a second chamber to replace the House of Lords. But we will go further, introducing fixed-term parliaments, banning MPs from paid second jobs that pose a conflict of interest, and providing for a free vote in Parliament to widen the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds.

In 1997 New Labour met the call of renewal. In our politics and economy over the last 18

months, we have witnessed seismic events. In this election, the first of the post-crisis era, we stand as the people with the experience, values and ideas to help our country through the next phase of renewal.

This task has always relied on optimism. Our principle opponents, the Conservatives, offer a fundamentally pessimistic vision of national decline: about Britain today and in the future. Their only real prescription for the good society is a smaller state and the decisions they seek to make for our country would favour the privileged few over the many. They would isolate Britain, cutting us adrift from the alliances and influence that will enable us to succeed as a country.

This is a Manifesto that is idealistic about what is possible but realistic about how to achieve it.

This is not a conservative moment. It is a progressive moment. We speak for the ordinary people of this country who work hard, want their kids to do better than them, and worry about the economic, environmental and social challenges we face. We are on their side, it is their voice, needs and hopes that shape this programme.

Securing Britain's future

The plans set out in this Manifesto take full account of the fiscal position we face. We will protect frontline public services while meeting our commitment to halve the deficit over the next four years.

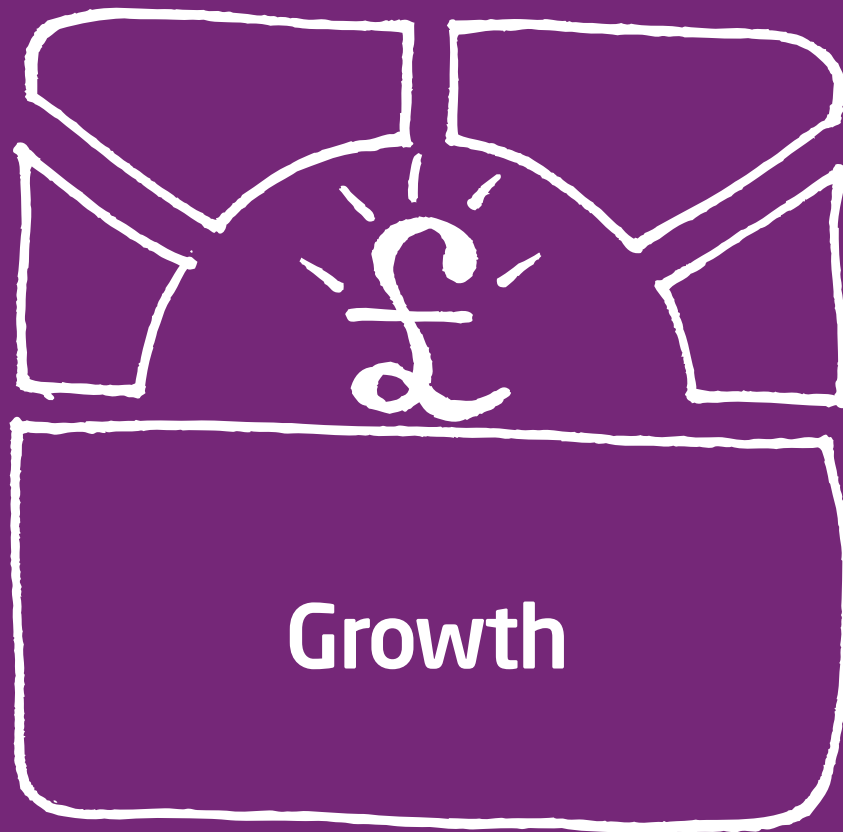
We are now emerging from the global financial crisis. It has had a lasting effect on tax receipts, here in the UK and across the world. We are sticking to our spending plans this year so that support for families and businesses remains as we secure the recovery. But from 2011-12, as growth takes hold, spending will be tighter.

The Manifesto reflects the tough choices that we will make to secure Britain's future in a way that is fair to all:

- **Tough choices for £15 billion efficiency savings in 2010-11.**
- **Tough choices on cutting government overheads: £11 billion of further operational efficiencies and other cross-cutting savings to streamline government will be delivered by 2012-13.**
- **Tough choices on pay: action to control public-sector pay including a one per cent cap on basic pay uplifts for 2011-12 and 2012-13, saving £3.4 billion a year, and new restrictions on senior pay-setting. Tough decisions on public sector pensions to cap the taxpayers' liability – saving £1 billion a year.**
- **Tough choices on spending: £5 billion already identified in cuts to lower priority spending.**
- **Tough choices on welfare: our reforms will increase fairness and work incentives, including £1.5 billion of savings being delivered.**
- **Tough choices on assets: £20 billion of asset sales by 2020.**
- **Tough choices on tax: a bonus tax, reduced tax relief on pensions for the best off, a new 50p tax rate on earnings over £150,000 and one penny on National Insurance Contributions.**

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

Building the high-growth economy of the future



The challenge

To secure the recovery and learn the right lessons from the global economic crisis laying the foundations for sustained growth: reforming banks, modernising infrastructure, and as we pay down the deficit, providing the right support to the private sector to build a diverse, high-tech industrial economy. The Tories would threaten recovery with cuts this year, and fail to invest in our economic future.

The next stage of renewal

- **Secure the recovery by supporting the economy now and more than halve the deficit by 2014 through renewed economic growth, fair taxes and cuts to lower priority spending.**
- **Realise our stakes in publicly controlled banks to secure the best deal for the tax-payer, introduce a new global levy, and reform the rules for banking to ensure no repeat of past irresponsibility.**
- **Create UK Finance for Growth bringing £4 billion together to provide capital for growing businesses, investing in the growth sectors of the future.**
- **Build a high-tech economy, supporting business and industry to create one million more skilled jobs and modernising our infrastructure with High Speed Rail, a Green Investment Bank and broadband access for all.**
- **Encourage a culture of long-term commitment to sustainable company growth, making corporate takeovers harder by requiring a super-majority of two-thirds of shareholders.**

As the economy steadily recovers, there will be no return to business as usual. Financial institutions cannot continue the practices of the past. Radical change is needed. Without long-term investment in wealth-

creating infrastructure and enterprise, accompanied by the diversification of our industrial base, Britain will not emerge from the recession ready for a stronger, fairer future.

The engine of growth is private enterprise: we will give business our full support in creating wealth and jobs. Strong and sustained growth is fundamental to a credible strategy for keeping the public finances on a stable long-term footing.

To be successful business needs stability: but to achieve stability after the seismic shock of the global banking crisis, the governance of our economic and financial institutions must be radically reformed.

And to support business in securing prosperity for future generations, an activist industrial strategy is essential: learning the lessons from those nations that have succeeded in developing advanced manufacturing and leading-edge service industries. In these countries the role of government is not to stand aside, but to nurture private sector dynamism and properly support infrastructure and the sectors of the future.

Securing the recovery

We have taken the tough decisions to get Britain through the downturn. We have done so with fairness in mind: we have not allowed the recession created by the financial crisis to become a depression, or

stood aside and allowed grave damage to be inflicted on our society as it was in the 1930s and 1980s. The Tories argue that public spending should be cut immediately, but this position is out of step with every other G20 government, right or left. If governments do not provide support when families and businesses most need help, growth is set back, jobs are lost, and the country builds up more debts - paying a higher price in the future. To cut now would push the economy back into recession, not reducing the deficit but increasing it.

We will continue to support the economy while growth is still fragile, sticking with our targeted increase in public spending over the next year to sustain the recovery. Our focus for the stimulus is strategic investment, putting in place the new digital, transport and energy infrastructures that will support the return to sustainable growth.

Deficit reduction and fiscal sustainability

Once the recovery is secure, we will rapidly reduce the budget deficit. We have set out a clear, balanced and fair plan to more than halve the deficit over the next four years and we will stick to it. We will achieve

this through a combination of fair tax increases; a firm grip on public spending including cuts in lower priority areas; and strategies for growth that increase tax revenues and reduce spending on benefits. Over the next Parliament the structural deficit will be cut by more than two-thirds.

The huge global recession and our efforts to counter it have required us to make tough choices, including on tax. We have made our choice in ways that put the greatest burden on those with the broadest shoulders. Bankers have faced a bonus tax, tax reliefs on pensions for the best off will be reduced, and we have introduced a new 50p tax rate on earnings over £150,000. We have also decided to put one penny on national insurance contributions, asking those on salaries over £20,000 to pay a little more from April 2011 when the economy will be stronger - protecting front line services. These commitments allow us to credibly deliver our deficit reduction plan and to protect the services that matter most to families.

We will not raise the basic, higher and new top rates of tax through the next Parliament and we renew our pledge not to extend VAT to food, children's

clothes, books, newspapers and public transport fares. We will maintain tax credits, not cut them. And we have made our choice to protect front-line investment in schools, the NHS and policing in Scotland.

Tough choices

On public spending, we will be relentless in making sure that the public get value for money for every pound spent. We will overhaul how government works: cutting back-office and property running costs; abolishing unnecessary arms-length-bodies; sharply reducing spending on consultancy and marketing; and cutting lower priority spend. We have already shown in Budget 2010 how these steps will help us to achieve savings of £20 billion a year by 2012-13, on top of the £15 billion that are being delivered this year.

We will take a tough stance on public sector pay, saving over £3 billion by capping public sector pay rises at 1 per cent in 2011-12 and 2012-13. We have agreed tough reforms to public sector pensions, as set out in Budget 2010, which will make significant savings and ensure that pensions for the public sector workforce are secure and sustainable in the long-term. Any UK government controlled

appointment involving a salary over £150,000 will require ministerial sign-off – and we would take a similar approach in Scotland. Savings from our tougher approach will help realise a fair rate of pay for all those working for government.

As we prepare for the upturn, fiscal responsibility and monetary stability will be the foundations on which we build. We have made the new fiscal responsibility framework legally binding, and we will maintain our inflation target of 2 per cent so that mortgage rates can be kept as low as possible.

Rebuilding our banking system

The international banking system played a key role in fuelling the most severe global recession since the Second World War. We are determined to support our financial sector and for it to be a major employer and wealth creator, but there will be no return to the excesses of the past - banks will face tighter regulation. The banking system must support domestic businesses, including start ups and entrepreneurs, as well as mortgages. We have agreed lending targets with those banks in which we have a stake, and there will be consequences for executive

remuneration if targets are breached.

Learning the lessons of the crisis means ensuring that far greater responsibility is taken for risk is taken in the boardroom. We will compel banks to keep more capital and create 'living wills' so that should they fail there will be no danger of that failure spreading. Because the banking crisis demonstrates the global nature of financial instability, we will continue to work with our international partners to require all banks to hold more and better quality capital, to ensure counter-cyclical protection, and to introduce a global tax on financial services so that banks across the world contribute fairly to the society in which they are based.

In the UK the new Council for Financial Stability will monitor and help address asset bubbles and financial imbalances. We will give the FSA additional powers if necessary to constrain and quash executive remuneration where it is a source of risk and instability. If there is evidence of bonus rules being evaded, we will act.

We will ensure greater competition in the banking sector; breaking up those banks in which the Government

currently has a controlling stake. The proposed OFT review into how City markets operate is welcome. We value the role of building societies owned by their customers and the strength and diversity that a healthy mutual sector brings to our financial services, and we will consult on measures to help strengthen the sector. As one option for the disposal of Northern Rock, we will encourage a mutual solution, while ensuring that the sale generates maximum value for money for the taxpayer.

Rebuilding our industrial base: new industries, new jobs, new knowledge

Britain is already the 6th biggest manufacturing economy in the world. Because of substantial investment since 1997, the UK has an excellent research base and is already strong in some world-leading sectors. But if we make the right decisions as a country in the coming years - through a new industrial policy, stronger infrastructure and a renewed partnership between business and government - we can be leaders in the emerging industries of the future.

After the crunch, we will ensure that growth industries can access the investment they need to grow. Finance must

be at the service of industry, as new public channels are built to deliver private funds to innovative and fast-growing companies. The new UK Finance for Growth Fund will bring together a total of £4 billion of public funds and combine it with private money to channel equity to businesses looking to develop and grow. Within this, the Growth Capital Fund will focus on SMEs which need capital injections of between £2 and £10 million, while the Innovation Investment Fund will focus on the needs of high-tech firms.

Business investment in physical capital will play a key role in a balanced and sustainable recovery. The Strategic Investment Fund is supporting important new investment in the nuclear and renewables industries. We will provide incentives for companies to invest through R&D tax credits, and protect and increase the size of capital allowances that help to grow key sectors such as manufacturing. We will ensure a competitive regime through the development of the patent-box – a lower rate of corporation tax to encourage UK-based innovation – supporting the UK's strengths in new industries and sectors.

Britain is among the best places in the world to do science, having massively increased investment in research and development as a proportion of national income. We are committed to a ring-fenced UK science budget in the next spending review. To help us do better in turning research outputs into innovation, we will provide focused investment for Technology and Innovation Centres, developing technologies where the UK has world-leading expertise.

We will also support university research through the development of a new University Enterprise Capital Fund. The proceeds of success will flow back into the higher education sector.

As we create a more diverse economy, we will strengthen support for exporters to help us increase our market share with our traditional markets in Europe and the United States, while breaking further into the emerging markets of China, India and Brazil.

We must seize the opportunity to develop education, in particular higher education, as a great export business. Universities will be encouraged to develop international links and research partnerships, and

we want the Open University to reach the global market in distance learning. We will develop a new gateway for the export of NHS intellectual property and services at the cutting-edge.

Restoring full employment

We expect our growing economic and sectoral strengths to create at least one million skilled jobs by 2015. These jobs of the future will increasingly come from the new growth sectors in which we are investing - low carbon, digital and creative industries, high value tourism, premium food and drink, life sciences – and professional work in business services, healthcare and education.

Championing an enterprise economy

At the heart of our approach to building a strong and fair Britain is a commitment to support enterprise. We will back those who want to get on, work their way up, and generate wealth. We will keep business taxation competitive at the same time as we increase capital allowances to encourage investment.

There is no substitute for the drive and ambition that entrepreneurs bring. We will

support small businesses and help with their cash flow by continuing our 'Time to Pay' scheme that has already – through tax and NICs deferral - helped thousands of firms; and in recognising the special contribution of entrepreneurs we are doubling the Entrepreneurs Relief lifetime limit to £2 million. We will also create a new Small Business Credit Adjudicator with statutory powers ensuring that SMEs are not turned down unfairly when applying to banks for finance.

We will continue to simplify regulation and avoid unnecessary red tape. If it is used correctly regulation can help drive innovation, as well as protect workers and consumers. We will seek to reduce the costs of regulation by more than £6 billion by 2015.

21st Century infrastructure

The key to creating the industries of the future is renewing the national infrastructure on which firms rely. To ensure Britain's infrastructure needs are properly resourced, we will work in partnership with the private sector reforming the regulation of energy to improve incentives for the

private sector to invest. We will establish a Green Investment Bank to invest in low carbon infrastructure, with the Government's stake funded by the sale of infrastructure assets. The Government will seek to match its' contribution with at least £1 billion of private sector investment.

We propose to extend the public interest test so that it is applied to potential takeovers of infrastructure and utility companies.

Britain must be a world-leader in the development of broadband. We are investing in the most ambitious plan of any industrialised country to ensure a digital Britain for all, extending access to every home and business. We will reach the long-term vision of superfast broadband for all through a public-private partnership in three stages: first, giving virtually every household in the country a broadband service of at least two megabytes per second by 2012; second, making possible superfast broadband for the vast majority of Britain in partnership with private operators, with Government investing over £1 billion in the next seven years; and lastly reaching the final ten per cent using satellites and mobile broadband.

Because we are determined that every family and business, not just some, should benefit, we will raise revenue to pay for this from a modest levy on fixed telephone lines. And we will continue to work with business, the BBC and other broadcasting providers to increase take-up of broadband and to ensure Britain becomes a leading digital economy.

Rebuilding our transport infrastructure

Britain needs to invest in modern, high capacity and low-carbon transport infrastructure. At the heart of our growth plan is the commitment to a new high-speed rail line, linking the North and South. Built in stages, the initial line will link London to Birmingham, Manchester, the East Midlands, Sheffield and Leeds, and then to the North and Scotland. By running through-trains from day one, cities including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle and Liverpool will also be part of the initial network. Journey times will be slashed – Glasgow and Edinburgh will be within three and a half hours of London, making the train a strong competitor to the plane for these longer journeys and slashing carbon emissions. We will consult fully on legislation to take forward

our high speed rail plans within the next parliament. Labour is committed to High Speed Rail coming to Scotland, serving Glasgow and Edinburgh and we will set out the business case.

High speed rail is not just about faster journey times. It will free up capacity on existing intercity rail lines, enabling more rail freight, commuter and local services.

Rail passenger numbers across the UK have increased by 40 per cent in the last ten years and punctuality and quality of service are improving steadily. We will encourage more people to switch to rail with an enforceable legal right to the cheapest fare. We will welcome rail franchise bids from not-for-profit, mutual or co-operative franchise enterprises and will look to remove unfair barriers that prevent such bids benefiting passengers and taxpayers.

Heathrow is Britain's international hub airport, already operating at full capacity, and supporting millions of jobs, businesses and citizens who depend upon it. Scotland, in particular, depends on connectivity through Heathrow to European and international markets. We support a third

runway at Heathrow, subject to strict conditions on the environmental impact and flight numbers, but we will not allow additional runways to proceed at any other airport in the next Parliament.

Our towns and cities need modern, sustainable transport infrastructure. We will build the Glasgow Airport Rail Link, supporting 1,300 jobs.

Buses are a lifeline. Around £300 million of public money goes to support bus services every year. Where local bus services are not serving communities well, we would seek to re-regulate to improve services.

Through our investment Labour has put Britain at the forefront of the electric and low carbon vehicle manufacturing. To promote the rapid take-up of electric and low carbon cars, we will ensure there are 100,000 electric vehicle charging points by the end of the next Parliament.

Corporate governance reform

To build strong businesses we need skilled managers, accountable boards, and committed shareholders – all with a culture of long-

term commitment. We will strengthen the 2006 Companies Act where necessary to better reflect these principles. The UK's Stewardship Code for institutional shareholders should be strengthened and we will require institutional shareholders to declare how they vote and for banks to put their remuneration policies to shareholders for explicit approval.

Too many takeovers turn out to be neither good for the acquiring company or the firm being bought. The system needs reform. Companies should be more transparent about their long-term plans for the business they want to acquire. There need to be tighter timetables, more disclosure of who owns shares, a requirement for bidders to set out how they will finance their bids and greater transparency on advisers' fees. There should be a higher threshold of support - two-thirds of shareholders - for securing a change of ownership and the case for limiting votes to those on the register before the bid should be examined.

Creating a shareholding society

We want Britain's workers to have a stake in their company by widening share ownership

and creating more employee-owned and trust-owned businesses. We will reform tax reliefs for employee share ownership, encouraging firms to offer share options to all their employees.

We want to see a step change in the role of employee-owned companies in the economy, recognising that many entrepreneurs would like to see their companies in the hands of their employees when they retire. We will review any outstanding barriers to the formation of more employee-owned companies like the John Lewis Partnership.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

Prosperity for all not just a few



The challenge

To grow together as a country, rewarding those who work hard so they can do well and look after their families: returning Britain to full employment, enabling people to get higher paid and better jobs, and widening access to home ownership. The Tories have no plan for fairness; their decisions would make our society more unequal and unjust.

The next stage of renewal

- **200,000 jobs through the Future Jobs Fund, with a job or training place for young people out of work for six months but benefits cut at ten months if they refuse a place; anyone unemployed for more than two years guaranteed work but no option of life on benefits.**
- **A National Minimum Wage rising in line with earnings, and a new £40 a week Better Off in Work guarantee.**
- **Sustainable modern apprenticeship places for adults and young people.**
- **No stamp duty for first time buyers on all house purchases below £250,000 for two years, paid for by a five per cent rate on homes worth more than £1 million.**
- **A People's Bank at the Post Office; a Universal Service Obligation on banks to serve every community; a clamp down on interest rates for doorstep and payday loans.**

As the British economy returns to growth, we will ensure that everyone who is willing to work shares fairly in renewed prosperity. We will support the recovery so that we see a swift return to full employment, with more chances to get on at work and a fair distribution of growth throughout Britain.

Our job guarantees will put an end to long term unemployment and a life on benefits. No one fit for work should be abandoned to a life on benefit so all those who can work will be required to do so. At the same time, we believe that people should be able to earn enough to live and be better off than on welfare.

In today's world, every worker needs to be able to upgrade their skills in order to get on. As well as good career prospects, people want to know that their living standards and quality of life will improve. So we will enable more people to get on the housing ladder; offer a helping hand to build up savings; and secure a fair deal with the banks to strengthen people's personal finances.

A modern welfare state for all

We will build a personalised welfare system that offers protection for all those who need it, increases people's control over their own lives, and is clear about the responsibilities owed to others. Getting more people into employment increases tax revenues and reduces spending on benefits. Our intensive help for people out of work – starting from day one – has already kept unemployment over half a million lower than predicted during the recession, saving £15 billion over the next five years.

We are determined that no-one should be scarred for life by joblessness. No young person in Britain should be long-term unemployed: those out of work for six months or more will be guaranteed employment

or training through the £1 billion Future Jobs Fund, with mandatory participation after ten months. The fund will support 200,000 jobs – at least 20,000 in Scotland. All those who are long-term unemployed for two years will be guaranteed a job placement, which they will be required to take up or have their benefits cut.

More people with disabilities and health conditions will be helped to move into work from Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance, as we extend the use of our tough but fair work capability test. This will help to reduce the benefit bill by £1.5 billion over the next four years. We will reassess the Incapacity Benefit claims of 1.5 million people by 2014, as we move those able to work back into jobs.

For those with the most serious conditions or disabilities who want to work there will be a new guarantee of supported employment after two years on benefit. We will seek to ensure that disabled people are able to lead dignified and independent lives, free of discrimination and with the support to which they are entitled.

The lone parent employment rate has increased by over 12

per cent since 1997. We are radically reforming how Job Centre Plus helps lone parents: providing extra help with childcare, training and support to find family friendly work, while requiring those with children aged three to take steps to prepare for work and actively seek employment once their youngest child is seven years old.

To ensure that work pays, we will guarantee that when someone who has found it difficult to get into work comes off benefits, their family will be at least £40 a week better off. This is our Better Off in Work guarantee: together the National Minimum Wage and tax credits should always make work pay. And we will consult on further reforms to simplify the benefits system and make sure it gives people the right incentives and personal support to get into work and progress in their jobs.

Our goal is to make responsibility the cornerstone of our welfare state. Housing Benefit will be reformed to ensure that we do not subsidise those living in the private sector on rents that other ordinary working families could not afford. And we will continue to crack down on those who try to cheat the benefit system.

Glasgow has a historic concentration of worklessness. The Glasgow Task Force examined the welfare challenges within the city with a particular focus on generational poverty and benefit reliance. We are committed to its core recommendation - the development of a “Glasgow Guarantee” or commitment to all unemployed people in the city of Glasgow, and in the future would aim to see more localised delivery across Scotland.

Making Work Pay

The National Minimum Wage is one of our proudest achievements. It protects and sustains millions of low paid workers. To ensure that the lowest paid share fairly in rising prosperity, the Low Pay Commission’s remit will have the goal of the National Minimum Wage rising at least in line with average earnings over the period to 2015.

To underline our commitment to helping the lowest paid we will ask all Whitehall Departments, within their allocated budgets, to consider how they can follow the lead of those who already pay the Living Wage. This will be supported by measures to address high pay in the public

sector – reducing pay-bill pressure in the years ahead.

We want everyone to have better prospects in work. We will give the Low Pay Commission additional responsibilities to report on productivity and career progression in low-skilled, low-paid sectors, bringing together representatives from the business community and social partners.

Getting Ahead: investing in you

As we restore full employment to the British economy, we will seek to make work more fulfilling and secure. That means supporting people to improve their skills.

We have led the way on skills. We are committed to the creation of sustainable modern apprenticeship places for both adults and young people so they have the skills needed to sustain economic recovery post recession. We successfully amended the Scottish Budget to create nearly 8,000 new apprenticeships.

Improving your living standards

Our aim is to put more wealth in the hands of the British people. We have done all we

can to keep mortgage rates low – at 0.5 per cent during this recession compared to 15 per cent in the 1990s - and will continue to do so in the future. The direct tax and benefit measures introduced since 1997 mean that in 2010-11, households will be £1,450 a year better off on average. A family with one child and one person working full time will have a minimum income of £310 a week in October 2010 – 27% higher in real terms than in 1999. Tax credits will be increased not cut.

As family budgets are under greater pressure, we will do more to help people with the cost of living. There will be more help with energy bills through the social tariff and Winter Fuel Payments and we will work with the regulator to promote greater competition and diversity in the supply of energy to ensure falling wholesale prices get passed onto households in lower bills.

Fairness at work

We will strive to ensure fairness at work for all employees, continuing our crackdown on exploitative gang-masters and rogue employers. In all sectors the law must be upheld, properly enforcing safety and employment rights, and tackling

tax avoidance. We will extend the licensing approach to labour providers in the construction industry if the evidence shows that is the best way to enforce employment rights. We have strengthened HMRC's enforcement of the minimum wage. In future it will co-operate more closely with local authorities to enforce minimum wage legislation. We are enacting the Agency Workers Directive to offer additional protection to agency workers in relation to pay and conditions.

New legislation and the Equality and Human Rights Commission will ensure that people are not mistreated at work because of their gender, age, disability, race and religious or sexual orientation. The new Equality Act will be enforced, promoting fairness across our society. The public duty to promote equality of opportunity is being extended. We will encourage employers to make greater use of pay reviews and equality checks to eliminate unfair pay gaps, including inequalities in pay between men and women.

Modern trade unions are an important part of our society and economy, providing protection and advice for employees, and working for equality and greater

fairness in the workplace. We welcome their positive role in encouraging partnership and productivity.

Extending home ownership

Owning your own home is the aspiration of most families. We want as many people as possible to share in the benefits of home ownership, and to have a stake in an affordable home. That everyone has access to a decent home at a price they can afford is a central Labour ambition.

We will widen home ownership: over 160,000 households have been supported into ownership through government action since 1997. We will ensure that more than nine out of ten first time buyers pay no stamp duty by ending it for all purchases below £250,000 for the next two years. This will be paid for by increasing stamp duty to five per cent for homes worth more than £1 million.

We have acted decisively to make repossession the last resort, helping over 330,000 families stay in their homes so that repossessions are running at around half the rate of the early 1990s recession. We will now strengthen regulation to ensure consistent standards of consumer protection from

repossession, making the FSA responsible for the regulation of all mortgages. This means transferring second charge loans such as debt consolidation loans that are often issued by sub-prime lenders into the FSA's tougher regime, guaranteeing equal protection for homeowners.

To meet housing needs, we are committed to delivering affordable, mixed-tenure homes including homes for low-cost purchase and for rent from local authorities and housing associations. This will also create jobs and apprenticeships. We will work with the private sector to reverse the decline in private house-building, and look at ways we can invest in infrastructure to maximise public and private housing.

This Government has led the way in making sure that British homes are greener homes including our world leading commitment to all new homes being zero carbon by 2016 to new eco-towns, with the highest standards of green living seen yet in Britain.

We will continue to invest in our town centres, and bring derelict land back into community use. We will instigate an audit of publicly owned land and set up a Town Centre Regeneration

Fund to give communities access to the funds they need to regenerate local areas by bringing derelict land and buildings back into productive use.

Support with saving

We will do more to support saving and spread wealth across more families. The annual limits for Individual Savings Accounts have been raised to £10,200 and will be index-linked. The Pension Credit capital disregard will increase from £6,000 to £10,000.

The pioneering Savings Gateway account for people on lower incomes will be available to over eight million families from July 2010, providing a match of 50p for each £1 saved up to a limit of £300. We will extend this approach even further giving a boost to savings for more people on middle incomes. To help encourage the savings habit among young adults, we will develop a matched savings account for all 18-30 basic rate taxpayers, as set out in the Budget.

For the next generation we will protect - not cut - the Child Trust Fund - the world's first universal savings policy for young people, already giving 4.8 million children a nest

egg for the future. We will contribute an additional £100 a year to the Child Trust Funds of all disabled children.

A new deal on personal finances

In the post-crisis economy, we will fight for consumers and stand up to vested interests that treat people unfairly, whether in the private or public sector. We want a fair deal for all families.

The Post Office has an invaluable role to play in our communities and in serving local businesses. To promote trusted and accessible banking, we will transform the Post Office into a People's Bank offering a full range of competitive, affordable products. This will help sustain the network and boost competition in banking. The universal postal service delivered by the Royal Mail connects and binds us together as a country. We are firmly committed to the 28 million homes and businesses across the country receiving mail six days a week, with the promise that one price goes everywhere. The Royal Mail and its staff are taking welcome and needed steps to modernise work practices. For the future, continuing modernisation and investment will be needed by

the Royal Mail in the public sector.

We will introduce a universal service obligation on retail banks, so that all consumers with a valid address have a legal right to a basic bank account, and a right to redress if this is refused. Banks will have to publicly report on the extent to which they are under-serving communities. And we will introduce a new levy on the banks to help fund a step change in the scale of affordable lending by third sector organisations, including a new partnership with the Post Office, offering an alternative to loan sharks and high cost door step lending.

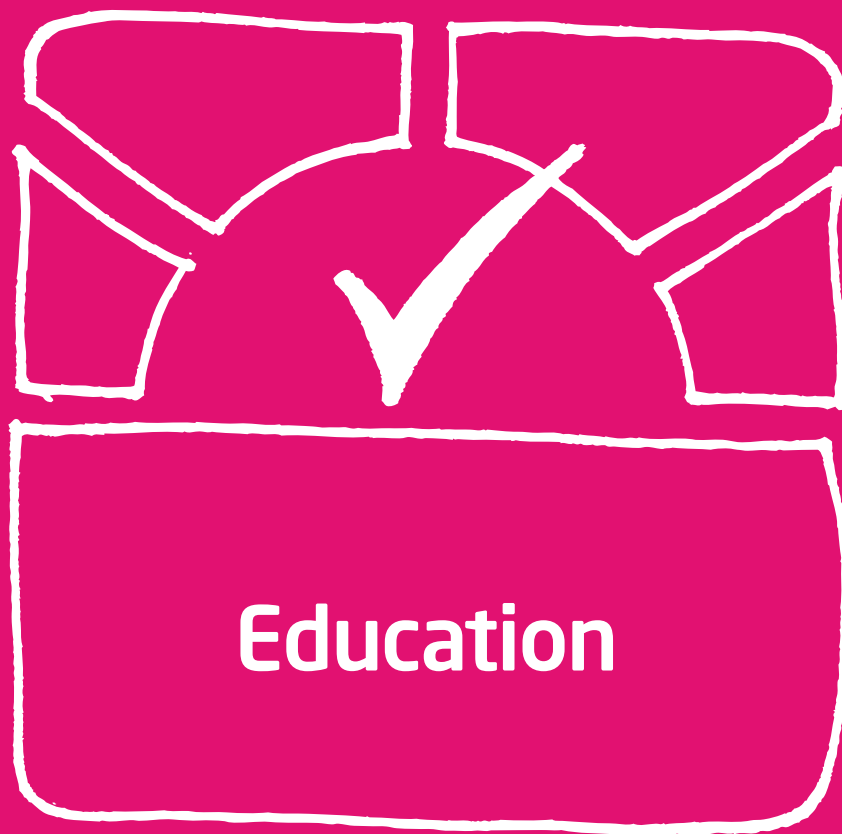
Over the lifetime of the next Parliament, as more affordable lending becomes available, we will clamp down on the interest rates and other fees charged by instant loan companies and payday or doorstep lenders, tackling the very high cost lending that hits low income communities hardest. We will introduce a single regulator for consumer finance to restore confidence and trust with responsibility for the supervision of all unsecured lending to be passed to the Financial Services Authority. And new rules governing how financial products are sold will

be introduced with a crackdown on unfair terms in contracts.

Finally, we will seek to promote competition in high street banking by introducing portable bank account and cash ISA numbers that stimulate switching where consumers are dissatisfied, along with consistent, easily understood labelling of financial products.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

Excellence in education: giving every child the chance to fulfil their potential



The challenge

We want excellence for every child, not just the privileged few. Every child deserves encouragement and support to make the best of the opportunities a good education can open up. Labour is determined to raise education standards by tackling the most urgent priorities: improving literacy standards; sorting out the problems at S1 and S2; putting right the problems with the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence; and taking the steps necessary to close the attainment gap between the best and poorest performing schools.

The next stage of renewal

- Every pupil in our primary schools being given the support they need to learn to read, write and count: placing literacy and numeracy at the centre of the primary curriculum; additional targeted support in English and Maths for those pupils who need it, with 1:1 learning support where required.
- Every young person to have a named mentor to support their learning throughout their secondary years: reinstating average class sizes of 20 in English and Maths at S1 and S2; small group tuition where needed to help pupils overcome barriers to attainment.
- Encouraging schools to innovate and develop specialist provision: giving head-teachers and their staff more control over resources; attracting the best entrants into teaching and retaining highly qualified young teachers within our education system; ensuring that adequate resources are available for professional development; and consulting with parents' organisations about extending the role that could be played by parents.
- Increased co-operation between educational establishments: strengthening links within clusters of establishments serving each local area: creating Communities of Learning so that a comprehensive range of learning opportunities is accessible to everyone.
- Each young person given the right to quality training or to stay on in education until 18 by 2015: choosing from a variety of pathways including advanced apprenticeship or technician level training, entering further or higher education, and staying on at school.

Education is the key to personal fulfilment, economic prosperity and social mobility. The future of Scotland lies in our young people, developing their skills and talents so that they can secure the jobs of the future. So our goal is educational excellence for every child, whatever their background or circumstances.

Our aspiration is for Scottish education to be amongst the best in the world. No-one must be left behind and everyone should be given the chance they need to fulfil their potential. Education is life-changing, life-enhancing and life-essential. We need to make sure our young people can acquire the knowledge, skills and intellectual capacities they need to compete on favourable terms with young people from other countries.

With Labour, huge steps were taken in improving the school estate. The maintenance of schools was neglected in the 1980s and 1990s under the Tories with many of them characterised by leaking roofs and second-class facilities. Labour embarked upon the most ambitious programme of school building in our history, with hundreds of new schools being built and many more extensively refurbished. It is

time to start building again. Teachers and parents know that children learn better in schools that are fit for purpose. New schools have made a huge difference in terms of morale and discipline as well improved facilities. Labour believes that no pupil or community in Scotland should be left to learn in a crumbling school.

Even in a period of financial constraint, Labour will protect front-line spending on schools over the next three years. Funding will not rise as fast as in recent years, so it is imperative that we find new ways of raising standards.

We will encourage schools to innovate and develop specialist provision: giving head-teachers and their staff more control over resources; attracting the best entrants into teaching and retaining well qualified young teachers within the Scottish education system. We will ensure that adequate resources are available for professional development and consultations take place with parents organisations about extending the role that could be played by parents.

Participation in post-school learning will expand, with more and better apprenticeships, improved technical education,

and continued, wide access to higher education.

The early years

Good, play based early learning boosts a child's development and gets them off to a flying start so that they begin school ready to learn and achieve. That is why we will invest in expanding high quality early learning and childcare. This new provision also supports parents to work when they have young children, improving family living standards.

The early years of a child's life are vital in overcoming entrenched disadvantage and breaking the link between social background and aspiration. Early learning can help to tackle the root causes of poverty and boost child development, reducing the need for intervention later on and driving upward mobility. We will expand the number of free early learning places for disadvantaged two year olds as a first step towards our long-term goal of universal free childcare for this age group.

We will offer more flexibility to busy working parents over the hours their children are offered for nursery education, such as taking them over two full working days, as well as

greater choice over when children start school. We will retain childcare vouchers, with all families receiving income tax relief at the basic rate. We will raise the quality of childcare by improving the qualifications of the workforce.

Excellence for all: every school a good school

Every parent wants their child to attend an excellent school – with the best possible teaching and the very best facilities.

No school can be better than the quality of its teachers. We have the best generation of teachers ever, but we will continue to strive to get the very best people into teaching, from the most committed graduates to the highest calibre career switchers. There are more than 2000 fewer teachers in Scottish classrooms than there were with Labour in 2007. Meanwhile, hundreds of newly qualified teachers are on the dole, scrabbling around for temporary work, or leaving for English schools.

We have invested heavily in the professionalism and expertise of the teaching and schools workforce, and we want the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence to be successful.

The original aims of these reforms – greater freedoms for classroom teachers to deliver higher quality for pupils – are being overshadowed by the incompetent way they are being introduced by the SNP Scottish government.

Primary schools: no child left behind

Like parents, we believe that children should leave primary school secure in the basics. However, the number of children unable to read by the time they leave primary school has been going up.

That's why we established our Literacy Commission, with experts from teaching, the research community and authors, such as Ian Rankin. Its conclusions were clear:

- As a nation, Scotland should make a formal commitment to zero tolerance of illiteracy.
- There should be a sustained policy commitment from all levels of government and educational management to address the issue of improving standards of literacy at all levels.
- A focus for local authorities should be to ensure that best practice is shared in order to

develop consistent, effective, multi-agency strategies that meet the emotional as well as literacy needs of the children in their care.

- The allocation of education resources should reflect the priority of improving literacy levels.

The Commission set out a clear framework for action, saying that each local authority and every school should develop local literacy plans suited to their individual circumstances. These plans should involve:

- Systematic and supportive monitoring of outcomes both by HMIE and by local authorities.
- Modification of policy and practice in the light of the findings.
- A commitment to effective and appropriate action to support every individual child at every stage of learning.

Successful schemes should involve the following elements:

- Starting at an early age.
- Phonics as the approach to getting the great majority of children starting to read successfully.

- Use of a range of other approaches to tackle cases of difficulty up to and including intensive individual tuition for children who continue to experience significant reading problems.
- Programmes of high quality professional development, regularly updated and consistently available.

We will implement these recommendations. We will place literacy and numeracy at the centre of the primary curriculum. We will give every pupil in our primary schools the support they need to learn to read, write and count. We will provide additional targeted support in English and Maths for those pupils who need it, with 1:1 learning support where required.

Secondary schools: Excellence for all, personal to each

We will increasingly tailor education to the aspirations and aptitudes of individual pupils. Every young person will have a named mentor to support their learning throughout their secondary years. We will reinstate average class sizes of 20 in English and Maths at S1 and S2 and there will be small group tuition where needed to

help pupils overcome barriers to attainment.

We will increase co-operation between educational establishments. Our aim is to strengthen links within clusters of establishments serving each local area and to create Communities of Learning so that a comprehensive range of learning opportunities is accessible to everyone.

Because the learning environment itself matters, we will restart the stalled school building programme to give all our children first-rate facilities that support inspirational teaching and access to ICT, sports and the arts.

Zero tolerance of poor behaviour

The vast majority of schools have good or outstanding behaviour. But no child should have his or her learning disturbed by poor discipline in the classroom. It is unacceptable that pupils and teachers can face violence in school. The actions of a small minority can ruin the education of everyone else. We want to see good behaviour in every classroom. We will ensure that every school has a discipline code, with support bases for those who need it so that bad

behaviour can be tackled at the outset before things get out of hand. We believe schools and head-teachers should have more options and if needed, more powers for dealing with pupils who persistently misbehave.

All children safe and thriving; no child left behind

Living in a family on a low income, having special educational needs or disabilities and being in care all remain strongly linked to poor outcomes and low educational attainment. We are determined to narrow the gap between these children and their peers. We will make sure psychological and additional support services work closely with schools. We will support schools and other services in the early identification of unmet additional needs. We will promote evidence based early intervention and prevention programmes that make a proven difference to children's healthy development and capacity to learn. Ensuring all children are safe from abuse and harm will remain a top priority. We will learn all the lessons from appalling cases like that of Brandon Muir in Dundee.

But this is not a localised issue, it is one of national concern. We would establish a national inquiry into child protection services across the country. The current process fails vulnerable children in parts of Scotland. We would legislate to require the sharing of information between agencies for child protection purposes because no child's life should slip through the bureaucratic net. We will take action to ensure that the large numbers of children living with drug addicted parents, and the children of parents with severe alcohol addiction problems are identified and supported as appropriate.

Staying on to get ahead

To stay ahead in the global skills race and to ensure a new wave of social mobility, we are committed to a historic change: giving each young person the right to quality training or to stay on in education until 18 by 2015. They will be able to choose from a variety of pathways including advanced apprenticeships or technician level training, entering further or higher education and staying on at school.

World class universities

Higher education is fundamental to our nation's success in the global economy. Demand for high-level skills is strong and growing and the supply of good graduates is an increasingly potent factor in international economic competition. Scottish universities would be at risk of falling behind in teaching and research if the resources they receive increase more slowly than universities elsewhere in the UK. It is time for an independent, strategic review of Higher Education and Labour would establish one. Labour has successfully campaigned for increased student support for our poorest students and we will build on this progress, ensuring we have a support system that recognises and takes account of the diversity of today's student population.

Colleges are at the heart of our local communities and the local economy, developing the skills that Scotland needs to secure economic recovery and future growth. We will encourage greater business and college engagement, as well as supporting greater articulation routes for students through school/college partnerships and stronger relationships with universities. We recognise

that hardship and childcare funds at colleges are essential to supporting many students in their studies and we will deliver on improvements to the current system.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

World leading healthcare: a patient-centred NHS



The challenge

Labour believes that as we protect front-line investment we can build an even better NHS with more preventative and personal care, clear patient guarantees and more care in the home. The Tories would fail to guarantee fair access to services, worsen inequalities by entrenching the post-code lottery of care and put the interests of patients second.

The next stage of renewal

- **Spending on NHS front-line services protected.**
- **A new right halving the time from one month to two weeks to see a cancer specialist and get results.**
- **Making our hospitals cleaner and safer.**
- **Cutting waiting times, driving up standards and ensuring that people are treated as close to their home as possible.**
- **Our Alcohol Strategy will identify measures to tackle alcohol abuse.**

While the NHS in Scotland has developed differently to the rest of the UK, it embodies our values of fairness and social justice - for sixty years it has been part and parcel of what it means to be British – it is part of the social union that binds us together. In an insecure, fast-paced world, people need a first-class health care system they can rely on. But to be safe for the next generation, we need to be prepared to continue with reform. We need to be bolder in our shift to preventative

care; tougher in ensuring value for money for every pound spent; and more determined in demanding the highest standards of care. Above all, the interests of the patient must come first. No longer should they be the passive recipients of care, they must be active partners. We will take steps to make sure that the patient's voice is heard.

At the core of the NHS is the principle of care provided on the basis of need, not ability to

pay. Under Labour, the NHS will remain a universal health service, not a second-rate safety net. Only fifteen years ago, the very existence of the NHS was in doubt. Now with sustained investment and reform, the NHS is delivering high quality healthcare in safer and ever more convenient ways.

To prosper in the future, the NHS will have to respond to the challenges facing healthcare systems across the developed world: new cures and breakthrough treatments, an ageing society, the growth of long-term diseases, and ever higher public expectations. At the same time as we face tough fiscal pressures.

Protecting the NHS and investing in the front-line

In 1997, health spending in the UK as a share of national income was the second lowest of all the major industrialised countries. The resulting failures were visible to all: long waits, outdated buildings, and too few doctors and nurses.

Since then, investment has turned around the public's experience of the NHS. With Labour, an extra 700 new doctors and 5,000 nurses were employed by the NHS in Scotland between 1997

and 2007. Spending reached record levels in each year of the previous Executive, more than doubling in a decade. Since 2007, health spending in Scotland has been rising much more slowly than in the rest of the UK. Over the next three years, Scotland will be funded to protect frontline NHS services – we would guarantee that money to the NHS.

There will be tough decisions to make about priorities. It is a scandal that more money is spent on consultants' bonuses than on tackling superbugs in our hospitals. The NHS in Scotland has twice as many managers per head of population as in England. IT enabled E-care to provide efficiencies – at least £40 million a year. We will release resources through shared back-office functions, improved procurement and better management of land and property – NHS Scotland is one of the countries biggest landowners.

Over the next three years, we will ensure that every pound released in efficiencies in the health system is re-invested in frontline care.

A safer health service

Patients and their families have an absolute right to know that when they go into hospital they will be treated in clean and safe conditions. Labour's priority will be to eliminate hospital superbugs in the NHS by making our hospitals cleaner and safer.

In 2008, a total of 18 patients died at the Vale of Leven Hospital in what was then, in terms of the fatality rate, the worst case of *C. difficile* infection at any UK hospital. Across Scotland there was a 28 per cent increase in the number of deaths caused by *C. difficile*.

We supported the families who lost loved ones at the Vale of Leven in their successful campaign for a public inquiry. While lessons must be learned we would act immediately on the 15-point plan drawn up with assistance from the UK's leading health experts, Professors Hugh Pennington and Brian Toft:

- Establishing a robust monitoring system subject to rigorous checks by inspection teams, independent of government, undertaking unannounced visits and not relying on a system of self-assessment.

- Appointing an HAI Commissioner - to develop best practice and to co-ordinate and bring a sharper focus to the institutional clutter of those agencies responsible for tackling HAIs.
- Providing en-suite single room isolation facilities for all CDAD/MRSA patients.
- Providing quality hand-washing facilities - specifically temperature-controlled, sensor-operated, flow-regulated taps - appropriately positioned in all wards.
- Delivering real time detailed analyses at ward level, with high resolution fingerprinting of the causative microbes to track the spread of infection.
- Publishing monthly reporting, hospital by hospital.
- Ensuring staffing numbers in key posts meet national guidelines- control of infection nurses, scientist/microbiologist and cleaning staff posts. Antimicrobial pharmacists should be deployed in every hospital.
- Workforce planning to deliver medically qualified academic bacteriologists to train future specialists and conduct research.

- Set HEAT target to reduce the rate of clostridium difficile by 50 per cent by March 2011.
- Funding for the provision of surplus capacity of storage and washing facilities for soiled bedding and clothes at all hospitals in the event of an outbreak of C.diff.
- Introducing sterile hygiene systems for staff uniforms.
- Making facilities for the steam cleaning of beds and curtains available in every hospital.
- Budgeting for future increases in the levels of MRSA screening activity and the need for rapid turn-round times for tests with benefits both to the patients and to rapid infection control.
- Increasing funding for the Reference Laboratory to permit all isolates to be fingerprinted, and to develop typing systems which will identify new and potentially more virulent strains of C.diff.
- Establishing a properly resourced reference laboratory should be established for Norovirus gastroenteritis, given its link to CDAD, in line with the MRSA and C.Difficile reference laboratories.

A personalised NHS: improved services for patients

People rightly want public services that are not just universal but also personal to their needs. We will empower patients through higher standards and quality guarantees:

- A new right halving the time from one month to two weeks to see a cancer specialist and get results.
- We will work to cut waiting times faster.
- We will also take steps to ensure that patients with long-term conditions are diagnosed early and given access to treatment as close to home as possible.

For many people, closer working between health and social care would make a substantial contribution to improved health and well-being. We set out in Chapter 5, our vision for developing a National Care Service.

With a patient centred approach to NHS service delivery, services must be flexible and have the capacity to respond to individual patients' needs.

We also know that access to health services by public transport can be very difficult for many service users and there can be issues travelling in rural areas or between major hospitals within a health board area.

We know that people value local services and where this is consistent with patient safety, we will defend those services.

A focus on fairness and equality

Scotland has one of the worst health records in Europe. Prevention and early intervention will be at the heart of our plans for healthcare, significantly improving survival rates for cancer, heart disease and strokes so that we are among the very best in the world. To achieve successful outcomes in NHS treatment, we need a renewed focus on equality and health promotion.

The smoking ban we introduced shows that Scotland can lead, and Scotland can change. Lifting the thick blanket of smoke from our pubs, bingo halls and restaurants was the most important measure in a generation to improve our nation's health.

We have established a Commission under the chair of Professor Sally Brown to help us build on this achievement with measures to tackle alcohol abuse. We will introduce a legal limit on caffeinated alcohol and we will take tough action to end the over-consumption of alcohol including introducing Alcohol Treatment and Testing Orders.

Improving Scotland's health is also about improving access to sport, housing and education. We need to give people the opportunity to take responsibility for their own wellbeing.

Obesity levels in Scotland are among the highest in the world. Obesity magnifies the risk of heart disease, diabetes and cancer and can shorten life by as much as nine years. Tackling childhood obesity is particularly important because excess weight in childhood tends to continue into adulthood. In particular, it is absolutely essential that children are not denied the opportunity to take part in sport because of the recession. That's why we believe that young people should be allowed free access to council swimming pools.

We will review how best to provide children with free access to football matches in Scotland. Our ambition is to provide children and young people with access to sport and positive role models, whatever their family's financial circumstances. We will deliver a guarantee of at least two hours PE in primary schools.

If we can get youngsters playing sport and watching sport, we will succeed in our ambition to make each new generation healthier than the last. Glasgow is the proud host city of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. This is a once in a generation opportunity to get young people involved in sport – whatever their background.

Dental services

Preventative programmes to improve children's dental health have proven to be effective, yet we recognise that access to NHS dental services remains acutely problematic or even absent in many areas. We will review how best to tackle barriers and the lack of access to NHS dental care services.

Mental health services

Improving mental health is a key public health challenge. Mental health problems are the largest single cause of disability and illness. Around one in four people will experience mental ill health at some time in their life.

Prevention and early intervention are crucial in securing positive mental health outcomes – and can prevent the need for more expensive interventions later on.

We will review how early intervention, other therapies and methods of treatment can help to reduce the number of people who are prescribed anti-depressants.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

Strengthening our communities,
securing our borders



The challenge

To reduce fear of crime, with: policing numbers maintained; effective action on anti-social behaviour; support for victims of crime; and early intervention to prevent crime. The Tories talk tough but vote soft on issues from gun crime to DNA. We will control immigration with our new Australian style points-based system - unlike the arbitrary Tory quota which would damage business and growth.

The next stage of renewal

- **Provide the funding to maintain police numbers with neighbourhood police teams in every area.**
- **Guarantee fast and effective action to deal with anti-social behaviour, with new powers for neighbourhoods.**
- **Intervene earlier to prevent crime, with no-nonsense action to tackle the problems caused by dysfunctional families.**
- **Introduce tough new laws on knife crime: carry a knife and go to jail.**
- **Support victims first with a Victims' Commissioner.**
- **Control immigration through our Australian-style points-based system, ensuring that as growth returns, we see rising levels of employment and wages not rising immigration, We will also require newcomers to earn citizenship and the entitlements it brings.**

Britain is far safer now than it was when the Tories left office. Crime is lower than in 1997, but it is falling more slowly in Scotland than in England and last year in Scotland, there were almost nine thousand crimes of knife carrying. People are rightly worried about binge drinking, problem families and anti-social behaviour. They threaten the

values of decency and civility that hold communities together. We are committed to tackling these problems, not talking them up to run Britain down as the Tories do.

We understand people's concerns about immigration - about whether it will undermine their wages, job prospects, or

put pressure on public services or housing – and we have acted. Asylum claims are down to early 1990s levels, and net inward migration has fallen. We will use our new Australian style points-based system, together with our investment in skills and our new electronic border controls, to ensure that as growth returns, we see rising employment and wages, not rising immigration. But we will do this through a flexible system not the arbitrary and unworkable Tory quota which would harm business and damage growth.

Protecting front line policing

We are committed to giving the police the resources to maintain the numbers they have on the streets, with funding assured for the next three years. To protect the front line, we are making tough choices elsewhere: continuing to cut bureaucracy, and tackle inefficiency in procurement, IT spending, and unnecessary overtime. Our aim is that every community should have a neighbourhood police team.

To improve policing and responsiveness to communities we believe in sharing information more widely. Online crime maps have proved a success in England and in

the United States. We would aim to give everyone monthly information on crime in their area and what is being done to tackle it. We would support HMIC Scotland to develop new online ‘report cards’, comparing how forces are performing in terms of crime reduction, public confidence and value for money.

Early intervention and crime prevention

Between 1997 and 2007, we acted to tackle the causes of crime, intervening earlier, identifying the best programmes to prevent crime and reduce reoffending. We would continue to invest in intervention. For parents who don’t face up to their responsibilities, we need innovative approaches that combine intensive support with tough sanctions. For drug and alcohol dependent criminals, we would invest in treatment that is breaking their habits and reducing crime. We have also called for Alcohol Treatment and Testing Orders.

We need to do more and act earlier to stop children going down the wrong path. So we will work with Health Visitors to develop approaches that will reduce future crime and behavioural problems as well as improving life chances, reaching all vulnerable young

first-time mothers. For the most dysfunctional families who cause misery to their neighbours, we will provide a no-nonsense regime of 1-1 support with tough sanctions for non-compliance. These Family Intervention Projects – proven to tackle anti-social behaviour, drugs, alcohol and truancy – will aim to reach all problem families.

We will prioritise prison and probation funding in approaches that are proven to reduce re-offending. This would include joint working between probation and neighbourhood police teams to supervise young prolific offenders after they get out and an increase in the use of mentors, including vetted ex-prisoners, to meet offenders ‘at the gate’ so they don’t slip back into a life of crime. Alcohol Treatment and Testing Orders would be a substantial intervention for those persistent criminals where alcohol is identified as a cause.

We need to try new approaches to solving our hardest problems. So we will review the potential for using Social Impact Bonds, offering a significant new model for funding the third sector. This would encourage private investors to support social entrepreneurs to achieve real results – and harness additional

investment for crime prevention at minimal cost to the taxpayer.

On drugs, our message is clear: we will not tolerate illegal drug use. We have reclassified cannabis to Class B and banned ‘legal highs’. The seven year sentence for repeat class-A drug offences will be maintained. More addicts are being treated, with a higher proportion completing treatment and going on to live drug-free lives. We will switch investment towards those programmes that are shown to sustain drug-free lives and reduce crime – including drug-free wings in prisons and new ways of dealing with heroin addicts in the community. We will pilot removing benefits from drug users who refuse treatment and extend this nationally if it is shown to work.

Tough action on crime and anti-social behaviour

Crime is down since 1997, and fell during the downturn, in marked contrast to the recessions of the 1980s and 1990s. However, crime in Scotland is falling more slowly than in England; and knife crime is rising.

Our gun laws are among the toughest in the world, and gun murders are at their lowest for twenty years. We increased the

maximum sentences available for knife crime from two years to four years.

But last year in Scotland, knives were responsible for 58% of all homicides - the highest percentage ever recorded. We now need to toughen the law on knife crime through our proposals for mandatory minimum custodial sentences for knife criminals. Our message is simple. Carry a knife, go to jail.

We are committed to zero tolerance of all violence against women, and would work cross-government to drive prosecution rates up further, tackling the causes, and raising awareness.

Labour has a zero tolerance policy on violence and incitement against minorities. We are the party who legislated to criminalise incitement to racial hatred, then incitement to religious hatred, and most recently incitement to homophobic hatred. The law on homophobic hatred was watered down by Tory peers introducing a so-called 'freedom of speech' amendment. We will reverse this, invoking the Parliament Act if necessary to force it through.

Binge drinking and public drinking have left many law-

abiding citizens reluctant to venture into town centres at night. We have banned irresponsible drinks promotions, and strengthened police and council powers to close down rowdy pubs and clubs and crack down on under-age and public drinking. We will seek to introduce a right for licensing forums to petition local authorities to end twenty-four hour licensing where problems arise.

Anti-social behaviour can cause as much damage to victims and communities as more serious crimes. There were no specific powers against anti-social behaviour before Labour came to power in 1997. We brought in Anti-Social Behaviour Orders to give communities a weapon to fight anti-social behaviour. They have been used effectively to tackle vandalism, noise, rowdy behaviour and intimidation. In two thirds of ASBOs, the target of the ASBO is believed to be involved in other associated criminal behaviour including prostitution and drug dealing.

The powers should be used as part of the drive to tackle gang culture where it exists in Scottish cities, along with multi-agency efforts to discourage involvement in gangs. Despite their proven track record of success, they are currently

being allowed to wither on the vine. We would revive their use, and expand their scope. We want to expand ASBOs so that community organisations such as community councils, residents' associations or tenants' associations can apply to the police or to the local authority for an ASBO.

Using technology to cut crime

We will make full use of developing technology in CCTV and DNA matching: new weapons deployed to strengthen our fight against crime. We are proud of our record on civil liberties but we are also determined to give the police the tools they need to keep our streets safe.

CCTV in public spaces reduces the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Advances in DNA technology have helped to solve crimes - many of them serious and some going back many years. Last year alone in England there were 832 positive matches to the DNA database in cases of rape, murder and manslaughter. In order to protect the public, Scottish Labour will ensure that the most serious offenders are added to the database, no matter where or when they were convicted – and we will retain the DNA

profiles of those arrested but not convicted for six years.

The new biometric ID scheme which already covers foreign nationals will be offered to an increasing number of British citizens when they renew their passports, but will not be compulsory for them. ID cards will be a convenient alternative to the passport for proving identity and travelling in Europe, and will help fight the growing threat of identity theft and fraud, as well as crime, illegal immigration and terrorism. In the next Parliament ID cards and the ID scheme will be self-financing. The price of the passport and ID cards together with savings achieved through reduced fraud across the public services will fully cover the costs of the scheme.

Punishment and reform

Our goal is a justice system that is tough and fair: on the side of the victim, with serious and dangerous offenders continuing to serve long sentences to protect the public. At the same time, we will reduce re-offending and support those who want to turn away from crime.

Improved policing techniques, new technology and increased

police numbers (up 1,500 under Labour) have led to improved detection rates, and therefore an increased prison population.

We will ensure that the capacity of our prisons is adequate to ensure public safety, able to punish serious and persistent offenders and to provide respite to communities. We passed legislation to end automatic early release and would implement it, removing an unnecessary risk to our communities.

We will not abolish six-month prison sentences. That policy would mean 59 per cent of knife criminals, who would have gone to prison, would escape a jail sentence. Proposals to abolish sentences of six months or less come at a time where breaches of community sentences are at record levels, and there is a shortage of social workers in Scotland.

For offenders not sentenced to prison, we brought in tough new community sentences: hard work in public for several hours a day, paying back to the communities they have harmed. We will toughen community payback and pilot the right for local people to vote on what schemes are chosen.

We introduced massive reform of the criminal justice system to rebalance it towards the victim, with:

- improved support services to victims,
- victims allowed to make a statement to court,
- special video suites for vulnerable witnesses at court,
- measures to protect witnesses from being cross-examined by their attacker in court,
- the victim notification scheme which lets victims know when the offender is due to be released.

We now support the establishment of a Victims Commissioner with the ability to investigate, challenge and raise awareness of issues that affect victims of crime and the impact court experiences have on the individual and on communities.

We will make asset confiscation a standard principle in sentencing, extending the right to seize assets from cash to houses and cars. Every community should have the right to vote on how these resources are used to pay back to the community.

Terrorism and organized crime

Our counter-terrorism approach is one of the most sophisticated in the world, and investment has trebled since 2001, with thousands more counter terrorist police and a doubling of security service numbers.

We will continue to give the police the tools they need to fight terrorism while giving Parliament and the courts oversight to ensure these powers are not over-used. We condemn torture, and our police and security services will not co-operate with those who use torture. We will continue to develop our Prevent strategy to combat extremism.

We will continue to make Britain a hostile place for organised criminals, harassing them with asset seizures, tax investigations and other powers; strengthening the Serious Organised Crime Agency and encouraging police forces to co-operate across force boundaries and international borders; and responding quickly to new threats including cyber crime.

Strong borders and immigration controls

We are committed to an immigration system that promotes and protects British values. People need to know that immigration is controlled, that the rules are firm and fair, and that there is support for communities in dealing with change. While reflecting the needs to meet skills shortages, we will have a uniformly firm but fair immigration system in every part of the United Kingdom.

Our borders are stronger than ever. A new Border Agency has police-level powers and thousands more immigration officers, 100 per cent of visas are now biometric, and new electronic border controls will be counting people in and out by the end of the year. Asylum claims are back down to early 1990s levels, and the cost of asylum support to the taxpayer has been cut by half in the last six years. Genuine refugees will continue to receive protection.

Our new Australian-style points based system is ensuring we get the migrants our economy needs, but no more. We will gradually tighten the criteria in line with the needs of the British economy and the values of British citizenship, and step

up our action against illegal immigration. There will be no unskilled migration from outside the EU. Skilled jobs are now advertised here first for four weeks with more vacancies going to local workers, and public procurement will in future give priority to local people. The Australian-style points-based system will be used to control migration with limits for high-skilled workers and university students. As growth returns we want to see rising levels of employment and wages, not rising immigration. We will achieve this through a flexible system not the arbitrary and unworkable Tory quota which would harm business and damage growth.

We recognise that immigration can place pressures on housing and public services in some communities so we will expand the Migration Impact Fund, paid for by contributions from migrants, to help local areas.

We know that migrants who are fluent in English are more likely to work and find it easier to integrate. So as well as making our English test harder, we will ensure it is taken by all applicants before they arrive. Councils and other public services should keep funding for translation services to a minimum. Many public sector

workers are already required to meet minimum standards of English; we will build on this to ensure that all employees who have contact with the public possess an appropriate level of English language competence.

Because we believe coming to Britain is a privilege and not a right, we will break the automatic link between staying here for a set period and being able to settle or gain citizenship. In future, staying will be dependent on the points-based system and access to benefits, and social housing will increasingly be reserved for British citizens and permanent residents - saving the taxpayer hundreds of millions of pounds each year. We will continue to emphasise the value we place on citizenship, and the responsibilities as well as rights it brings, through the citizenship pledge and ceremony, and by strengthening the test of British values and traditions.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

Supporting Families throughout life



The challenge

To support all families in a rapidly changing world that places new and rising demands on all of us. We will help families to realise their aspirations - whatever their circumstances - and we recognise the huge contribution older people make to society and to family life. The Tories propose a marriage tax allowance that is divisive and unfair, will neglect growing care needs among frail elderly people and disabled adults, and prioritise only the privileged few.

The next stage of renewal:

- **More help for parents to balance work and family life, with a 'Father's Month' of flexible paid leave in the first year of a child's life.**
- **A new 'Toddler Tax Credit' of £4 a week from 2012 to give more support to all parents of young children – whether they want to stay at home or work.**
- **The right to request flexible working for older workers, with an end to default retirement at 65, enabling more people to decide for themselves how long they choose to keep working.**
- **Maintaining free personal care.**
- **Re-established the link between the Basic State Pension and earnings from 2012; help for 10 million people to build up savings through new Personal Pension Accounts.**

Strong families are the bedrock of our society. Secure and stable relationships between parents, their children, grandparents and other family members are the foundation on which strong communities are built. Today, parents have rising aspirations for their children and greater choice about how they lead their family and working lives.

Our society is ageing as many more of us live long and fulfilling lives, active in our communities as we enjoy retirement. Retired people bring great strengths to our society - as carers for older family members, active grandparents, and pillars of local civic life.

Substantial challenges still remain. Today, tough financial times are placing extra pressures onto families - adding to the daily challenges many already face in going out to work to earn a decent income, look after a home, and care for children or older relatives. In many families these pressures fall particularly on mothers. And like every industrialised country across the world, we need to adjust to an ageing society – where retirement will stretch to 25 years, demand for health provision will grow, and where the need for care will rise rapidly.

We need services that help families manage these new pressures without creating huge additional costs. We need to go further to secure fairness in later life and ensure that those who plan and save for their retirement are rewarded for doing so. The additional costs and burdens of old age must not fall disproportionately on those who have made provision for themselves and their families.

Strengthening Family Life

Children thrive best in families in which all the relationships are stable, loving and strong. We support couples who want to get married and

for whom marriage offers the best environment to raise children. Marriage is fundamental to our society, but financial support should be directed at all children, not just those with married parents. We reject proposals that would skew resources to the wealthy, penalising loving and committed adults who, for whatever reason, are not married and stigmatising their children.

In today's fast changing world, parents want to be confident they have the information and choices they need to protect their children. We will continue to promote internet safety for children, building on the recommendations of Dr Tanya Byron's review. We will support parents who challenge aggressive or sexualised commercial marketing. We will ask Consumer Focus to develop a website for parents to register their concerns about sexualised products aimed at their children.

No child left behind in poverty

No child should have to grow up in poverty. The current pressures on the personal finances of families make the goal of ending child poverty more important, not less. So we

will continue to make progress towards our historic goal of ending child poverty by 2020, building on the 2010 Child Poverty Act.

In the next Parliament, we will focus on helping families into jobs and out of poverty. Where parents, especially mothers, want to stay at home or work part-time we will do more to help families with younger children, reducing poverty in those vital early years of a child's life. We will ensure that work always pays for hard-working lone parents. The child element of the Child Tax Credit will be increased by £4 a week for families with children aged one and two from 2012, paid regardless of the marital status of the parents – a Toddler Tax Credit.

Flexible and family-friendly workplaces

More than ever families want support in balancing the pressures of work and home. To help parents strike this balance we will extend real choice to parents over how they organise their parental leave.

We have already increased paid maternity leave to nine months. We continue to believe that one year's paid leave in the baby's first year

is of great benefit to parents and their children. However, in the current economic circumstances, progress will inevitably be tougher. So we will introduce more flexibility to the nine months paid leave which mothers currently enjoy - allowing them to share this entitlement with fathers after a minimum of six months.

We will introduce a new Fathers' Month, four weeks of paid leave rather than the current two. We will also work with employers on how this can be taken flexibly - for instance, two weeks around the birth, and the remaining weeks taken flexibly over the first year of the baby's life, including with the option of sharing these extra weeks between parents.

This will be paid for as savings accrue from housing benefit through our reforms.

Our new agenda must reflect the change in working patterns that has emerged over the last twenty years. A high proportion of parents no longer work the traditional day, while increasing numbers of families depend on part-time work to manage their caring and work lives best. However, many still struggle to find quality part-time jobs that use their skills, so we will promote the creation of more

highly-skilled quality jobs for parents who choose to work more flexibly.

We created the right to request flexible working for parents and carers so that millions of individuals and their families could exercise more choice about how to balance their work and caring responsibilities. But as the burden of caring increases in our society we need to go further. By the end of the next Parliament we will ensure that the right to flexible working is extended to all older people, recognising that many, including grandparents and older workers want to vary their hours to the benefit of their families and to accommodate changing lifestyles. We will consult on the age at which this right should apply.

Helping older people who want to work

Age discrimination in the workplace has been banned. As well as promoting flexible working, we will now proceed to end default retirement at 65, with a review to establish the right way in which to support more people to work longer should they choose to do so. To expand the choices available for those wishing to work after retirement, we will enable people aged 60 and over to

claim Working Tax Credit if they work at least 16 hours a week, rather than 30 hours at present.

A good quality of life in older age

The vast majority of older people are well and active. Feeling part of the community and able to take part in local life is as essential for them as it is for younger people, benefiting them as individuals and also strengthening our families, communities and wider society.

Many charities, voluntary organisations and schools value and rely on the contribution of older people and we support the growing number of excellent initiatives creating greater understanding across the generations.

Parents who are able to call on grandparents to help with childcare, or during emergencies, know how essential their support is to a strong family life. Grandparents who give up work to help care for their grandchildren must not lose out, so they will receive National Insurance credits towards their state pension. We will remove the requirement on grandparents to apply for the court's permission before making an application for

contact with their grandchildren and we will ensure that grandparents and other family members are always given first consideration for adoption or fostering.

Better pensions for all, tackling pensioner poverty

Our commitment to fairness has put pensioner poverty at the top of our agenda for Britain. Older age poverty has been dramatically reduced compared to a generation ago. We recognise that it is right that pensions should rise in line with the nation's wealth. So to increase security in retirement, we will restore the link between the basic state pension and earnings from 2012 - broken by the Tories in 1980. Pension credit, which ensures that no pensioner need live on less than £132.60 per week or £202.40 for couples, and supports the income of 2.7million pensioner households, will also rise in line with earnings. Six in ten pensioners currently pay no income tax.

We will protect the help currently provided to pensioners, including Winter Fuel Payments maintained this winter at £250 for those aged 60 or over and £400 for those aged 80 or over; concessionary public transport fares; free TV

licenses for the over 75s; and free eye tests and prescriptions.

Saving for pensions

As a country, we need to save more for retirement - individuals, employers, and the Government will all need to play their part. We will support 10 million low and middle income people to build up savings through automatic enrolment in occupational pensions and new Personal Pension Accounts, which ensure that everyone in work is entitled to matched contributions from employers and government.

We will continue to make pension saving more attractive for individuals through favourable tax treatment. And we will promote stakeholder pensions offering simple, low cost and flexible products, obliging employers to provide access to a pension for all employees. We will continue to protect pension schemes when a firm's company scheme goes bust. We are also introducing more flexibility to make it easier for companies to run good schemes.

Between now and 2020 the State Pension Age for woman will rise to 65; and between 2024 and 2046, it will rise to 68 for both men and women, helping to make state pensions

affordable in the long-term. The reforms we are making to public sector pensions will keep them sustainable and affordable over the long term.

Social Care and the Social Union

The welfare state, in its broadest sense, is the most profound expression of the shared values that bind Scotland and the other nations of the United Kingdom together in a social union. As society changes, so the settlement evolves. In Scotland we led the way, extending the frontiers of the welfare state with the introduction of free personal care. Our ambition to do the right thing by older people was right. Unfortunately, across the country, they, and others, suffer from a postcode lottery in health and social care rather than a universal service.

We know that integrating health care and social care can substantially improve the quality of service for older people. Our aim is for health and social care to provide a seamless service.

Adequate pensions are the foundation of a decent quality of life for older people. But so too - especially for the oldest - is high-quality care - maintaining independence, keeping people active, healthy and reducing the need for care away from home,

whether in hospital or a care home.

The Prime Minister's aim of establishing a National Care Service to forge a new social care settlement for our country as enduring as that which the Labour Government built after 1945, expresses our ambition too. While we start from different circumstances and have services differently aligned, a National Care Service would be a further strand in the social union.

Our ambition is for free personal care to be part of a truly integrated service. It will be different in each nation of the UK, but will reflect our shared values.

Across the care system and the NHS, we will improve and personalise care for elderly people and their families. This will mean more NHS services are available in the home, with greater use of telecare and personal nursing. We will also ensure those with late-life depression and anxiety are diagnosed and supported and expand the provision of services for those with dementia and Alzheimer's so that every area of the country has access to improved services. There will be an end to the age-discrimination that has too often seen older

people disadvantaged in the
provision of healthcare services.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

Active and creative communities



The challenge:

To build on the renaissance that sport, culture and the arts have enjoyed in the last decade in a climate of financial restraint. The voluntary and community sector has a new lease of life, but needs its potential to be fully harnessed. The Tories have always neglected the arts and sport, regarding them as an easy target for cuts.

The next stage of renewal:

- **A golden decade of sporting success with the 2012 Olympics and the 2014 Commonwealth Games as great national and world-wide celebrations.**
- **Two hours PE a week in schools.**
- **Preserving the post offices on which community life depends.**
- **Upholding the BBC's independence; giving Britain a world-leading digital and broadband infrastructure.**

The sporting, artistic and cultural life of Britain is rich and diverse, internationally renowned, as vital to our quality of life as it is to our national prosperity. Since 1997, our creative industries, arts and sport have become the envy of the world. As the 2012 Olympics draw near, we will make the most of our place in the world's spotlight to showcase Britain, getting more people playing sport and attracting more visitors to the UK.

Culture and the arts are vital to a modern economy. But they stand for more than material success, reminding us that society is not just a marketplace. Promoting well-being means sustaining the community institutions that we most cherish, and protecting those areas of our public life that embody the common good.

2012: Creating an Olympic generation

Hosting the 2012 Olympics provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase our country's great sporting talent. The eyes of the world will be on us as Team GB inspires enthusiasm and national pride. Our aim is to achieve outstanding medal success at the Olympics and Paralympics, with a talent development system striving for excellence, and successful British athletes spanning all disciplines and events.

The Games will deliver a Golden Legacy for future generations, ushering in a new era of sporting excellence. The Olympics are already inspiring a new generation of British volunteers: over a quarter of a million young people are already signed up to help run the Games.

We will ensure that the Olympics are delivered on time and on budget, to the highest standards. Britain will be the first Olympic nation to create a world class sports system, from elite level to the grass roots. The impact of the Olympics will be felt throughout the country, helping to boost the UK tourist industry.

2014 Commonwealth Games

Our aim is to maximise what the 2014 Commonwealth Games can achieve for the benefit not only of the city of Glasgow but in particular, our aspirations for excellence and participation in sport throughout Scotland.

The physical legacy will be substantial - a games village with 1,500 houses; a national arena; a new velodrome; a national swimming centre; and a national hockey centre. These must be the foundation for a broader regeneration of the East End of Glasgow.

The social legacy needs to be at least as substantial and we have the ambition to think much more widely about the games legacy. We must find 15,000 volunteers and use the Games to widen volunteering. If we can break through the barriers that hold back some from volunteering we can deliver real benefits for their communities and to those individuals' long-term self-esteem and job opportunities.

Sport for All

We approach 2012 with a proud record. Between 1997 and 2007 we increased investment in sport for young

people. We began a renaissance of competitive sport in our schools and invested as never before in our country's sports facilities.

For children and young people, taking part in sport uncovers talent, improves physical fitness, and develops - through teamwork and competition - important social skills. Boosting early participation in sport is a vital investment. To encourage more young people to engage in regular sporting activity, we want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to do at least two hours of PE per week.

We believe that children under-16 should be allowed free access to council swimming pools.

We will review how best to provide children with free access to football matches in Scotland. Our ambition is to provide children and young people with access to sport and positive role models, whatever their family's financial circumstances.

Protecting the integrity of professional sport is vital: we will toughen measures to combat cheating and the use of illegal substances in sport. We will work with governing authorities to ensure that professional clubs

are accountable to their stakeholders, run transparently on sound financial principles, with greater involvement of local communities and supporter representation. Sports governing bodies will be empowered to scrutinise takeovers of clubs, ensuring they are in the long-term interests of the club and the sport. We will develop proposals to enable registered Supporters Trusts to buy stakes in their club.

The 2010s promise to be a golden decade for British sport: as well as the 2012 Olympics, we will host the 2013 Rugby League World Cup, the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup in England. We aim to bring more major international sporting competitions to Britain, beginning with our current partnership with the English FA to bring the 2018 World Cup to England.

Arts, culture and museums

Building on the success of the National Theatre's £10 Season, we will work with theatres and sponsors to provide reduced rate tickets for theatrical productions around Britain. We will also maintain our programme to provide

free theatre to young people nationwide. Our national cultural life and creative industries can prosper only by bringing on and developing young artistic talent.

So that our cultural facilities remain the best, charities, businesses and cultural organisations must collaborate more closely in the future. We will review how incentives for philanthropic support can be strengthened.

British Waterways will be transferred into the mutual, not-for-profit sector. People will be entitled to become members and elect the board.

We will maintain our commitment to free admissions, encouraging people of all ages and a wide range of backgrounds to visit our museums and galleries. We will commit to every child having lifetime library membership from birth.

We will give public institutions new rights to borrow works of art from the national collection, so that more people can benefit from access to our national artistic heritage. To recognise and reward the greatest artistic achievements, we will work with the Royal Household to develop The Queen's Awards, dedicated to excellence in arts and culture.

National Lottery funding is more in tune with people's priorities than ever. We will promote greater public involvement in the way that National Lottery proceeds are spent on good causes. A proportion of Olympic funding is from the Lottery – after 2012, it will return its focus to culture, heritage and sport.

Improving your community

The nature of the places in which we live matters enormously to our quality of life. We are happier, more engaged and better able to enjoy family life where there are safe and welcoming public spaces, good local amenities and buildings in which we can take pride.

Our towns and cities have undergone a renaissance in the last decade. British architecture has seen the rebuilding and revitalisation of our great cities, the replacement of dilapidated schools and hospitals with modern new buildings, and the renewal of the built environment throughout our urban areas. Even as spending on capital projects becomes more constrained in the years ahead, we will continue to promote excellence in architecture and design, helping to foster civic pride and build

world class places in which people want to live and work.

Our aim to ensure the very best standards of architecture and building design are met in school building projects, and we will extend these to all new Government funded building programmes. We would seek to strengthen the skills and capacity of local authorities to promote good design; and ensure that quality and excellence are at the heart of our planning system.

The Post Office is at the heart of community life right across the country, particularly in rural areas. We want it to thrive in the future: our plans for a People's Bank will enable the Post Office to renew its historic role as a trusted institution serving the community.

Social enterprises have a vital role to play in strengthening communities. We will incentivise the creation of more social enterprise hubs in every community.

We want to see local organisations run on co-operative principles with an expansion of Community Interest Companies, friendly societies and third sector mutual organisations that reinvest profits for the public good.

We will promote this business model. British Waterways will be turned into a mutually-owned co-operative, giving people a stake in an important aspect of our national life. We will promote the use of community shares that support investment in football clubs, pubs, renewable energy and shops.

A vibrant voluntary sector

Britain has amongst the highest levels of voluntary membership in the world. We strongly respect the independence of the voluntary and community sector (VCS). We will continue to strike the right balance between government support and independence for the sector.

The VCS has a unique contribution to make to delivering public services such as the capacity for greater flexibility and innovation. We will encourage support for third sector organisations in competing for public sector contracts, continuing to invest in capacity building and practical support to ensure there is a level playing field with the private sector.

All young people should be active and engaged in their communities, so that it becomes

a normal part of growing up to undertake service in the community. We are taking forward plans for a National Youth Community Service, with the goal that all young people contribute at least 50 hours to their communities by the age of 19, building on citizenship, education and community engagement in schools. In Scotland our priority would be to reintroduce the successful Project Scotland programme.

Faith is enormously important to millions of people in Britain, shaping their values and the way they live. We respect the importance of belief and welcome the contribution that people of faith make to our communities and society more widely. We will actively combat extremist groups who promote fear, hatred and violence on the basis of faith or race.

Britain's creative industries

In every nation and region of Britain a wealth of creative talent - in industries ranging from film to fashion, design and video games - has flourished, and creative industries now account for ten per cent of the national economy. Scotland leads in creative industries: Glasgow is becoming a hub for television production and

Dundee is a global leader in computer games.

The strength of Britain's film industry is a source of pride. Through Labour's film tax credit we have ensured that Britain - with its unique range of skills and facilities - is the right place to invest in film production. So that films can be enjoyed more widely too, we will maintain the film tax credit and create a merged British Film Institute and UK Film Council to establish a single body to promote film production and film heritage. Subject to state aid clearance, we will introduce a tax relief for the UK video games industry. We will support film festivals around the country, and establish a new biennial Festival of Britain, beginning in 2011, showcasing our major cultural achievements and young British talent across all of our creative industries.

The BBC is the most admired and trusted broadcaster in the world: respected internationally for its objectivity and its creative excellence, and here in Britain as a pillar of our cultural life. We support an independent and world-class BBC at the heart of a vibrant public broadcasting system. Our strong support for its editorial independence and the licence fee that finances

the BBC's programmes and activities will continue. But the BBC Trust should fully involve the public in decision-making. The licence-fee is guaranteed for the ten-year Royal Charter that took effect on 1 January 2007.

broadband for all commercial and residential consumers. We will update the intellectual property framework that is crucial to the creative industries - and take further action to tackle on-line piracy.

Channel 4 will continue as a public service broadcaster providing distinctive competition to the BBC, alongside STV and Channel 5. We are committed to maintaining plurality in regional news provision. We will fund three regional news programme pilots from the digital switchover under-spend in the current license-fee period.

The digital revolution is transforming the world of broadcasting. We are working with the BBC and Digital UK to ensure that TV's digital switch-over takes place smoothly by 2012, by providing financial support to help elderly people and the most vulnerable households in the UK. To ensure we preserve competition and protect children and consumers on the Internet, we will protect the independence of Ofcom.

We are extending broadband access to every business and home, ensuring universal access within a decade to high-speed

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

A green future for Scotland



The challenge

To be on track for the transition to a low carbon economy in a way that is fair, secure and helps create the jobs of the future, as we protect and enhance our natural environment and quality of life. For the Tories the environment has been all about image - by failing to deliver on our renewable energy targets, reversing our planning reforms and giving up on our new industrial strategy, they would put Labour's low carbon revolution in jeopardy.

The next stage of renewal

- **In Scotland we will create at least 40,000 new green jobs by 2015 and achieve around 50 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.**
- **Make it easier to live in greener ways through 'pay as you save' home energy and public recycling bins.**
- **Provide free energy efficiency measures for social housing tenants and require landlords to properly insulate rented homes, campaign to ensure that Scottish householders benefit from a boiler scrappage scheme.**
- **Defend the Forestry Commission from privatisation.**
- **Ensure fairness for food producers through reform of the EU Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies and a Supermarkets Ombudsman; and support post offices, shops and pubs in rural communities.**

Britain is a transition economy: from high carbon to low carbon. To avert the catastrophe of unchecked climate change we have begun the transition to a different kind of economic future. Our vision is of a society where economic prosperity and quality of life come not from exploiting the

natural world but from its defence.

This is a huge challenge, not just for Britain but for the world. Living within our environmental means will require a dramatic shift towards using resources more efficiently and reducing waste. We will

need to find new ways of balancing the multiple uses of land: safeguarding food security at the same time as enriching our natural environment; protecting distinctive landscapes while enabling environmentally sensitive development.

Labour's environmental agenda reflects our values. Only active government can shape markets to prioritise green growth and job creation. Environmental sustainability cannot be left to individuals and businesses acting alone. We believe that everyone has a right to a healthy environment. That means giving everyone access to the beauty and amenity of natural places; we want to make it easier to live in a sustainable way whatever your standard of living.

We believe in local community action – enabling both elected councils and community and social enterprises to provide environmental benefits to local people. We are internationalists too: only co-operative global action - including a strong European Union - can tackle climate change and protect the world's precious environments.

Towards a green economy

We have established low carbon policy as one of the principal engines of our economic

recovery and future growth. Our aim is to create 400,000 new green jobs by 2015 – at least 40,000 in Scotland. The foundation of Labour's approach has been leadership on climate change. The 2008 Climate Change Act made Britain the first country in the world to put its carbon targets into law. In Scotland, Labour in the Scottish Parliament set a 42 per cent target for carbon reduction – the highest in the world.

Internationally, we will continue to work for an ambitious, fair and legally binding climate change agreement, building on the Copenhagen Accord to limit global temperature rises to two degrees Celsius. In the next Parliament, we will use our leadership in the EU to push for a strengthening of Europe's 2020 emission reductions from 20 to 30 per cent by 2020 as part of an ambitious global deal. This would mean the UK increasing its current target of a 34 per cent reduction. As part of the negotiations, we believe Europe should agree a second Kyoto commitment period, provided all countries are brought within a clear legal framework.

Developing countries need help to adapt, reduce deforestation and reduce emissions. From 2013 we will provide climate assistance in addition to our commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of national income in overseas aid. No more than 10 per cent of our aid will be counted towards climate finance.

This Government is revolutionising Britain's energy policy. We are building a clean energy system which will reduce Britain's dependence on imported oil and gas and increase our energy security. We are planning for around 40 per cent of our electricity to come from low carbon sources by 2020 - renewables, nuclear and clean fossil fuels. In Scotland, we are planning for a round 50 per cent of our electricity to come from renewables from 2020 and we will continue to argue for a diverse mix of electricity generation including nuclear. A major drive for energy efficiency will be enhanced by a 'smart grid' using new information technologies.

We are committed to meeting 15 per cent of UK energy demand from renewables by 2020. We already have more

offshore wind-power than any other country in the world, and our plans could see this increase by up to forty times, alongside other renewable technologies such as tidal and marine, solar and sustainable bio-energy.

We have taken the decisions to enable a new generation of nuclear power stations, and a programme of four clean coal plants with carbon capture and storage technology with a levy to fund them. We are the only Government to have banned new unabated coal fired power stations.

We will reform the regulatory system to provide the certainty that investors need, and create a Green Investment Bank to help finance this transformation.

In stimulating the sustainable use of resources, we will move towards a 'zero waste' Britain, banning recyclable and biodegradable materials from landfill.

Our industrial strategy will ensure that the drive to green our economy will create jobs and businesses in Britain in the manufacture and installation of low carbon and environmental technologies.

Making green living easier and fairer

Everyone can play their part in reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment.

Through our requirement that energy companies provide subsidies for insulation, we will ensure that all household lofts and cavity walls are insulated, where practical, by 2015. By 2020 every home will have a smart meter to help control energy use and enable cheaper tariffs; and we will enable 7 million homes to have a fuller 'eco-upgrade'.

We will legislate to introduce 'Pay As You Save' financing schemes under which home energy improvements can be paid for from the savings they generate on energy bills. Already with our new 'feed-in tariffs' and incentive for renewable heat, households fitting micro-generation technologies such as solar can earn financial rewards from the energy they generate themselves.

Labour is determined to end fuel poverty and create a fair energy system for all. We will introduce a new Warm Home Standard for social housing and regulate landlords so that privately rented accommodation is properly

insulated. We have legislated for compulsory contributions from energy companies to protect the vulnerable.

To deliver the fairest deal for consumers, we will ensure greater competition in the energy supply market.

Labour in Scotland ensured massive investment in our water infrastructure, enabling clean and safe water supplies at affordable prices. We will continue to support the retention of Scottish Water in public hands and will oppose any attempt to privatise it by the Tories or SNP.

Encouraging greener living is about communities, not just individuals. We will devolve power to local councils to hold energy companies to account for community energy efficiency programmes and give them powers to develop local energy systems such as renewables and district heating. We want local people to have a stake in local renewable energy projects such as wind farms. So we will support community organisations, co-ops and social enterprises to provide energy services, meaning lower prices through bulk purchasing and the development of small-scale renewables.

We have already made it far easier for everyone to recycle. With Labour the amount of municipal, or household, waste recycled or composted was 28.4 per cent in 2006-2007 - nearly six times higher than it was in 2000-2001 when it was 4.5 per cent. Next, we will drive the introduction of 'recycling on the go', with separated public bins on the street and in shopping centres.

We have championed the increasing desire of many to grow their own food, encouraging local authorities to provide more allotments and getting kids to learn about growing food in school. We will work with community organisations to make it easier to find and use sites for 'grow your own' schemes.

Valuing nature for everyone

For millions of people the British countryside, and the parks and commons of our towns and cities, provide solace from the pressures of modern life and the distinctive character of the places we love. The riches of Britain's biodiversity – our native species, both rare and commonplace – depend on them.

We are committed not only to protecting but enhancing our natural environment, and enabling it to be enjoyed by all. We support investment in Greenspaces and we want joined up action to ensure that the Central Scotland Green Network supports training opportunities for young people. We support greater investment in forests and woodlands to support our climate change objectives and to provide new recreational and biodiversity opportunities. Finally, regardless of whether people live in urban or rural areas, access to allotments brings health and environmental benefits. We would work with local authorities and land owners to expand the range of allotments available across the country.

We have created Scotland's first two National Parks, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, and the Cairngorms. We also planned for Scotland's first Marine National Park. Our Land Reform Act extended public access to our mountains, moors and Scotland's fantastic coastline.

Competing pressures - from greater food production to housing and natural flood defences - are making the

management of land resources ever more challenging. We will develop a new framework for managing our land that can more effectively reconcile these pressures. We will not privatise the Forestry Commission.

Our air, rivers and beaches are now the cleanest they have been since the height of the industrial revolution. We will work with SEPA and local authorities to ensure continued progress. We built up spending on flooding to ensure that local authorities were able to progress major flood prevention schemes. We also amended the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act to strengthen its effectiveness and to ensure more priority is given to using natural flood management techniques.

We have a proud record on animal welfare. We banned not only fox hunting, but other cruel practices such as animal testing on cosmetics and tobacco. We amended the Scottish Marine Bill to make sure that lethal force may only be used against seals as a last resort and only where there is a guarantee that all reasonable steps will be taken to minimise the suffering of any animal. Scottish Labour wants to see a ban on snaring. We will continue to campaign across the

world to end illegal trading in ivory and to protect species such as polar bears, seals and bluefin tuna. We will campaign for an EU-wide ban on illegally logged timber and ban it domestically if this does not succeed.

Sustainable farming, healthy food

We want British farming to be profitable and competitive. We need our farmers to produce more food, nurturing our countryside and biodiversity. We will continue to seek reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) to facilitate the creation of fairer and better functioning agricultural markets, enabling farmers to return a reasonable profit from food production at lower cost to the consumer.

In order to protect farmers and food suppliers from unfair and uncompetitive practices by major retailers, we will create a Supermarket Ombudsman. Consumers have the right to know where food comes from. We are working with the food industry and retailers to ensure proper food labelling, including tougher and clearer 'country of origin' information. This will also help to level the playing field for British farmers.

An economically viable and environmentally sustainable fishing industry is vital for our coastal communities. We will push for fundamental reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy.

Thriving rural communities

Those who live in rural areas are entitled to excellent amenities and services, as are those who live in towns and cities. Rural communities face unique challenges. We are committed to continued investment in frontline services in rural areas. We will also continue to provide specific support to rural businesses and communities. As we come out of recession, new housing and training opportunities will be needed in rural Scotland. Labour will campaign for action to deliver this boost to our rural economies.

Rural businesses and communities must have the broadband connections they need. We are committed to universal broadband access, irrespective of location. The levy on fixed phone lines will pay for expansion of fast broadband connections to rural areas.

We do not believe rural villages should be left without essential services such as shops, pubs and communities. We will continue to support the imaginative solutions being developed in rural communities to provide locally-owned services from community shops and pubs to transport and renewable energy.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

A new politics - renewing our democracy and rebuilding trust



The challenge

To forge a new constitutional and political settlement in Britain so that we restore trust in politics and our political institutions are properly held to account by the people. The Tories oppose any real reform of the political system that has let the public down. Their policies would result in a postcode lottery based on 'free-for-all' localism rather than genuine empowerment and a future fair for all.

The next stage of renewal

- **Following on from the Calman Commission giving the Scottish Parliament additional powers.**
- **Legislation to ensure Parliaments sit for a fixed term and an All Party Commission to chart a course to a Written Constitution.**
- **Referenda, held on the same day, for moving to the Alternative Vote for elections to the House of Commons and to a democratic and accountable Second Chamber.**
- **Improved citizenship education for young people followed by a free vote in Parliament on reducing the voting age to 16.**
- **A statutory register of lobbyists, with MPs banned from lobbying and required to seek approval for second jobs.**

We face a deep crisis of trust in politics following the parliamentary expenses scandal. Faith in our political institutions was seriously eroded by the abuses of the expenses system. Only radical change can begin to renew our democracy.

We acted swiftly to clean up politics by creating an Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) to set pay and pensions for MPs, as well as their allowances. And we will take further measures to restore trust in our politics. MPs that are found responsible for financial corruption will be

subject to a right of recall if Parliament itself has failed to act against them. The House of Lords and the new Second Chamber will be brought under the aegis of IPSA. We will create a Statutory Register of Lobbyists to ensure complete transparency in their activities. We will ban MPs from working for generic lobbying companies and require those who want to take up paid outside appointments to seek approval from an independent body to avoid jobs which conflict with their responsibilities to the public.

But this is only the start. People want a greater say in how the country is governed and for politicians to be more accountable to those they serve. So while we are proud of our record of devolving power and reforming the constitution, we believe that further and more radical reform is imperative if we are to renew our democratic public life. Britain needs a new constitutional and political settlement for a new era.

Democratic and Constitutional Reform

To begin the task of building a new politics, we will let the British people decide on whether to make Parliament more democratic and

accountable in referenda on reform of the House of Commons and House of Lords, to be held on the same day, by October 2011.

To ensure that every MP is supported by the majority of their constituents voting at each election, we will hold a referendum on introducing the Alternative Vote for elections to the House of Commons.

We will ensure that the hereditary principle is removed from the House of Lords. Further democratic reform to create a fully elected Second Chamber will then be achieved in stages. At the end of the next Parliament one third of the House of Lords will be elected; a further one third of members will be elected at the general election after that; and then a further third. Until the final stage is reached, the representation of all groups should be maintained in equal proportions to now. We will consult widely on these proposals, and on an open list proportional representation electoral system for the Second Chamber, before putting them to the people in a referendum.

To further strengthen our democracy and renew our constitution, we will legislate for Fixed Term Parliaments and

set up an All Party Commission to chart a course to a Written Constitution. We are proud to have brought in the Human Rights Act, enabling British citizens to take action in British courts rather than having to wait years to seek redress in Strasbourg. We will not repeal or resile from it.

Our society rightly demands respect from young people. We plan that all young people will give service to their community, as part of learning to become active and responsible citizens. At the same, society should respect young people's views and aspirations. Just as we ask for greater responsibility from young people, so too we should extend their rights. The success of elections for local Youth Mayors and the UK Youth Parliament strengthens the case for reducing the voting age to 16, a change to which Labour is committed. However, we believe that prior to this happening, we need further to improve citizenship education in schools so that young people are better prepared for their democratic responsibilities; a report will be commissioned on how best to achieve this so that we can raise standards in citizenship education, before providing a free vote in Parliament on reducing the voting age to 16, for which we

will make government time available.

A new politics also means strengthening the power of Parliament to hold the executive to account. We have supported changes to how Parliament functions in order to strengthen Select Committees and to give a stronger voice to backbenchers. The public will be given a new right to petition the House of Commons to trigger debates on issues of significant public concern. Parliament must better reflect the diversity of modern Britain. Labour already has a higher proportion of female and black and ethnic minority MPs than any other party. We will take forward the proposals of the recent Speaker's Conference to further improve the diversity of the House of Commons.

We strongly support measures that improve the transparency of Parliamentary institutions and government, and want to see this principle extended throughout public life. To encourage freedom of speech and access to information, we will bring forward new legislation on libel to protect the right of defendants to speak freely.

The cost of politics to the taxpayer must be minimised but we reject using this as an excuse to gerrymander constituency boundaries in the interests of one political party. We will establish a non-partisan Parliamentary Boundaries Review to examine the rules for constructing parliamentary constituencies. We have already legislated to enable the individual registration of voters. We will now act, legislating further if necessary, to end the unacceptable situation where three million eligible voters cannot vote because they are not registered to do so.

We believe that the funding of political parties must be reformed if the public is to regain trust in politics. Our starting point should be the Hayden Phillips proposals of 2008. We will seek to re-open discussions on party funding reform, with a clear understanding that any changes should only be made on the basis of cross-party agreement and widespread public support.

Public services in the digital age

Citizens expect their public services to be transparent, interactive and easily accessible. We will open up government, embedding

access to information and data into the very fabric of public services. Citizens should be able to compare local services, demand improvements, choose between providers, and hold government to account.

We have led the world with the creation of data.gov.uk, putting over 3,000 government datasets online. Entrepreneurs and developers have used these datasets to unleash social innovation, creating applications and websites for citizens from local crime maps to new guides to help find good care homes or GPs. We will now publish a Domesday Book of all non-personal datasets held by government and its agencies, with a default assumption that these will be made public. We will explore how to give citizens direct access to the data held on them by public agencies, so that people can use and control their own personal data in their interaction with service providers and the wider community. The data of the Scottish Government and its agencies should be available in the same way.

Opening up government – central and local – in this way offers huge potential for Britain. We can use new technologies to give people a say on policy

– making; enable citizens to carry out more of their dealings with government online; and save money for taxpayers as we switch services over to digital-only delivery.

Protecting the UK and supporting the Union with a stronger Scottish Parliament

Devolution has strengthened the UK, preserving the union on the basis of a fairer partnership. The UK is strong enough and flexible enough to devolve power while retaining the benefits of staying together.

The Scottish Parliament has put more power in the hands of Scottish people. Devolution has proved itself to be the right form of governance for Scotland. Scots know that as part of the United Kingdom we have the best of both worlds. First, Scots are proud of the Scottish Parliament and the way that it allows them to find what Donald Dewar called “Scottish solutions to Scottish problems”. Secondly, the economic events of the past year demonstrate again the added strength of being part of the UK, the fifth largest economy in the world. While Britain brings strength to Scotland, Scotland brings breadth to Britain.

We will work with the Speaker and the Presiding Officer to examine how best they can work together in the interests of Scotland and the UK.

Since the first day of devolution, the Scottish Government have been accountable for how they spend taxpayers' money. We will now make them accountable for how they raise it. We will give the Scottish Parliament greater freedom, but also the responsibility, to set the level of income tax in Scotland. In addition to new tax powers, we will give the Scottish Parliament new powers and responsibilities on capital borrowing. We will also devolve stamp duty land tax, aggregates levy and landfill tax.

In addition to a new deal on funding, we will devolve new powers to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament. On the power to regulate air weapons, we have kept controls under close scrutiny and there are encouraging signs that recent changes are having an effect. However, we agree in principle to devolve the regulation of air weapons to the Scottish Parliament. We will also devolve the power to set the drink-drive limit and the power needed to

determine the national speed limit in Scotland.

We will introduce a Scotland Bill as soon as possible in the next Parliament. We will phase in the new financial arrangements carefully and we plan to have the changes in place during the next term of the Scottish Parliament. We will build consensus behind these changes.

In Wales, we will work with the Welsh Assembly Government on a referendum to enhance the powers to make laws affecting Wales in Wales; and to ensure that Wales is not disproportionately disadvantaged by the application of the central government funding formula.

For the first time, Northern Ireland can look forward to a stable and prosperous future as a result of the Good Friday, St Andrews and Hillsborough Agreements. Supported by unprecedented public funding, we will continue to invest in the institutions of devolution, so that the Unionist and Republican traditions can work together for all the people of Northern Ireland.

Our constitutional monarchy is the source of deep pride and

strength for our country. We believe that there is a case for reform of the laws concerning marriage to Roman Catholics and the primacy of male members of the Royal family. However, any reform would need the agreement of all the Commonwealth countries of which The Queen is the Sovereign.

The Scottish Labour Manifesto 2010

Meeting the challenges of the new global age



The challenge

To harness Britain's strengths and values, and our alliances and networks, in order to promote security, economic prosperity, development and safeguard the environment. The contrast with the Tory view could not be starker: they are stuck in the past, spurning alliances in Europe and helpless to defend our interests or secure the global change we need.

The next stage of renewal

- **A Strategic Defence Review to equip our Armed Forces for 21st century challenges, and support our troops and veterans**
- **Use our international reach to build security and stability – combating terrorism and extremism, curbing proliferation, preventing and resolving conflict, and tackling climate change**
- **Lead the agenda for an outward facing European Union that delivers jobs, prosperity and global influence**
- **Re-energise the drive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, supporting sustainable growth and combating poverty**
- **Reform the UN, International Financial Institutions, the G8 and G20, and NATO to adapt to the new global challenges.**

Afghanistan: our commitment

There is no greater responsibility than to commit our troops into action. That is why we take our responsibilities in Afghanistan and to our Armed Forces so seriously. A stable Afghanistan and a

stable Pakistan means a safer Britain: if Afghanistan fell to the Taleban, Al Qaeda could regroup, and Pakistan's stability and our national security would be threatened.

Our Armed Forces are serving with incredible courage and skill alongside representatives of

over forty other nations. They are a credit to the country and an example to the world. We have met every request for extra equipment for Afghanistan: in the last four years we have doubled the number of helicopters, and spent £1.7 billion on 1,800 new vehicles – including the Mastiff, brought into service in record time and saving lives with world leading protection against mines and roadside bombs.

Our forces are working to a clear strategy - to protect the Afghan people and train Afghan security forces. The London conference in January agreed there should be 300,000 Afghan Army and Police by the end of next year, with British forces and other countries shifting more of their effort into training to begin the process of handing over responsibility for districts and provinces to Afghan forces later this year.

Afghanistan is not a war without end. Together the military and civilian effort is designed to create the conditions for a political settlement that keeps Al Qaeda out, reconciles tribal interests, and involves Afghanistan's neighbours. It will lock in the long term gains delivered by our aid programme since 2002 – with millions more children,

especially girls, going to school, big reductions in child mortality, and better access to basic healthcare. It requires stronger local administration and less corruption, combined with a way back for former fighters who are prepared to renounce links to Al Qaeda and abide by the Afghan constitution.

Strengthening our Armed Forces and national security

The most fundamental responsibility of government is to protect the security of its citizens. We have created Britain's first ever National Security Strategy to strengthen our response to fast-moving and interconnected threats, from terrorism and nuclear proliferation to new challenges like cyber security. We have trebled investment in counter-terrorism at home, combined with multilateral action against terrorism and extremism abroad, not just in the Afghan-Pakistan border areas - still the main source of the threat - but also Yemen and Somalia.

Our commitment to defence is non-negotiable. Defence spending has increased by ten per cent in real terms since 1997. Funding for Iraq and Afghanistan is additional to that, with the Reserve providing

£18 billion in total so far and an estimated £5 billion in the next year.

Despite this continued investment, acute cost pressures remain in long term defence projects. We are reforming defence procurement, making further reductions in civilian staff, and cutting lower priority spending on headquarters costs, travel and consultancy.

A Strategic Defence Review will look at all areas of defence, but we will maintain our independent nuclear deterrent. We will fight for multilateral disarmament, working for a world free of nuclear weapons, in the Non Proliferation Treaty Review conference and beyond - combining support for civilian nuclear energy with concerted action against proliferation.

We are committed to a strong Navy based on the new aircraft carriers, an Air Force with two state of the art fast jet fleets as well as additional helicopters, transport planes and unmanned drones, and a strong, high-tech Army, vastly better equipped than in 1997.

The growth in the core defence budget has also enabled us to guarantee fair pay for all our forces, including the first ever tax-free bonus for those

on operations abroad, whilst strengthening our support for their welfare. Service families can now retain their place on NHS waiting lists when they are deployed to another part of the country. Further education is free for those leaving the forces with six years' service or more.

We have invested hundreds of millions of pounds to reverse a legacy of decades of neglect of forces' accommodation, and we are helping service personnel get onto the housing ladder. Homelessness among service leavers has been sharply reduced, and the law changed to give them better access to social housing.

The new Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham will have a military-run ward and the largest single-floor critical care unit in the world. Headley Court and the new Army Recovery Capability will continue to offer world-leading support to those rehabilitating after serious injury. We have doubled the lump sum payments for the most seriously injured to £570,000, and increased the lifetime income payments by up to a third.

As a sign of our continued commitment to the military community, we will introduce a Forces Charter to enshrine

in law the rights of forces, their families, and Veterans. A Veterans ID card will help Veterans access their improved benefits and will be free to service leavers. We will continue to strengthen mental health provision in partnership with the Combat Stress charity, and roll out our Welfare Pathway to give personnel and their families better support and advice.

A Strong Britain in a Reformed Europe

We are proud that Britain is once again a leading player in Europe. Our belief is that Britain is stronger in the world when the European Union is strong, and that Britain succeeds when it leads in Europe and sets the agenda for change. Sullen resistance and disengagement achieve nothing.

Stronger competitiveness must be Europe's economic priority. Europe will only grow and prosper if it is dynamic and knowledge-based, with excellent universities, competitive companies, and thriving start-ups, underpinned by a modern infrastructure of digital communications and low carbon transport. The EU should strive to improve the regulatory environment, in particular for small and medium sized business. But we reject

any attempt to renegotiate or unravel social rights for the British people, and believe that economic strength and social protection go hand-in-hand - a modern EU must enhance competitiveness and growth while guaranteeing security and fair rights at work.

Fundamental reform of the EU budget remains necessary, with further changes to the Common Agricultural Policy on the way to ending export subsidies. Transfers within the EU must target those areas that are least well off. On the Euro, we hold to our promise that there will be no membership of the single currency without the consent of the British people in a referendum.

We support the enlargement of EU membership to include Croatia, and believe that all Western Balkan states should open negotiations on EU accession by 2014 - one hundred years after the start of the First World War. Turkey's future membership is a key test of Europe's potential to become a bridge between religions and regions; there must be continued progress on its application to join the EU. In its foreign policy, Europe should play a key role in conflict resolution and the promotion of security, and work bilaterally to achieve its goals

with the leading global powers in each region of the world.

On climate change, the EU has a critical leadership role to play in securing a legally binding UN agreement, reducing its emissions by 30 per cent on 1990 levels in the context of an ambitious global deal. It must also offer stronger leadership on global poverty reduction.

We will strengthen co-operation with our EU partners in fighting crime and international terrorism, and support practical European co-operation on defence, in partnership with NATO. To symbolise its commitment to global peace and justice, and energise its young people, we propose a European Peace Corps.

The poverty of the Tory vision is summed up by their false choice between an alliance with the United States and one with Europe. In Europe they are not just isolated, but marginalised - in a tiny group of far right parties that endorses extreme views and is stuck in climate change denial. Elsewhere in the world their anti-European attitudes are seen as undermining British influence. They are helpless to shape change, or defend our interests.

Strengthening global security and preventing conflict

We strongly believe in co-operation between nations for a safer world. We will continue to press for stronger international action against terrorism and learn the lessons of recent experience to prevent and defuse conflict and build stability and the rule of law in places that would otherwise shelter terrorist networks. We have shown in Afghanistan and elsewhere that our military, diplomats and development staff can set an international standard for joint working, but we will not put the aid budget under military control. We will spend at least half of our new bilateral aid in fragile and conflict-affected states.

Having played a leading role in the international agreement to ban cluster bombs, we are leading the campaign for a legally binding global arms trade treaty in 2012.

We will continue to drive reform of the humanitarian agencies at the UN and work to build an international consensus on 'responsibility to protect', while supporting the International Criminal Court in bringing previously untouchable criminals to justice. We will

advocate a new international convention to enable the prosecution of perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity.

There is no more important part of the world for global security than the Middle East. We support the creation of a viable Palestinian state that can live alongside a secure Israel. All the countries of the region have a role to play in delivering the vision of the Arab Peace Initiative - normalised relations between Arab states and Israel in return for a Palestinian state. They also have a shared interest in preventing the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran. This is the gravest nuclear threat to global security since the foundation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the 1960s. We support engagement and pressure on the Iranian regime; it is threatening its own people as well as the security of the region and the world.

In Africa, Labour has made aid, trade, conflict prevention and good governance a priority. We will support the final stages of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan, and maintain the pressure for Zimbabwe to transition back to democracy as quickly as possible.

We will work with Greece and Turkey for long-term stability in Cyprus; and continue to support bilateral efforts by India and Pakistan to improve relations. The two countries have remarkable ties to the UK which we are determined to nurture. We will keep up the pressure for the release of Aung Sang Suu Kyi and a return to democracy in Burma.

We strongly support reconstruction and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. We believe that both the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka must be held to account for the loss of civilian life, and we will continue to urge the Sri Lankan Government to fulfil its commitment to a full and fair investigation into war crimes committed in the final months of the civil war.

Human rights and democracy are a central feature of our foreign policy for a simple reason - we believe human rights are universal, and it is the job of strong and mature democracies to support the development of free societies everywhere – while upholding our own legal and moral obligations.

The global poverty emergency: our moral duty, our common interest

Labour's international leadership on development has helped transform the lives of millions across the world. Yet too many people still live in extreme poverty, die from treatable diseases, or are denied the chance to go to school.

We will lead an international campaign to get the Millennium Development Goals back on track. We remain committed to spending 0.7 per cent of national income on aid from 2013, and we will enshrine this commitment in law early in the next Parliament. Our aid will target the poorest and most excluded - spent transparently and evaluated independently. We will fight corruption, investing more to track, freeze, and recover assets stolen from developing countries. Further action will be taken to strengthen developing countries' tax systems, reduce tax evasion, improve reporting, and crack down on tax havens. To increase accountability, we will allocate at least 5 per cent of all funding to developing country budgets to strengthening the role of Parliaments and civil society.

Our leadership on debt cancellation has freed 28

countries from the shackles of debt. We will continue to drive this agenda, building on legislation to clampdown on vulture funds.

Access to health, education, food, water and sanitation are basic human rights. We will spend £8.5 billion over eight years to help more children go to school; maintain our pledge to spend £6 billion on health between 2008 and 2015 and £1 billion through the Global Fund to support the fight against HIV/Aids, TB and Malaria; fight for universal access to prevention, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS by 2010; and deliver at least 30 million additional anti-malarial bed-nets over the next three years.

We will provide £1 billion for water and sanitation by 2013, driving this issue up the international agenda and over £1 billion on food security and agriculture. We will push for the establishment of a Global Council on Child Hunger. We will help save the lives of six million mothers and babies by 2015 and because international focus on the needs of women and girls is vital we will double core funding to the new UN Women's agency. While the Tories would favour private schemes, we will work closely with NGOs and developing

countries to eliminate user fees and promote healthcare and education free at the point of access. We will encourage other countries to ratify the ILO conventions on labour standards, as we have done.

Trade can lift millions out of poverty. We will work with the private sector, trade unions and cooperatives to promote sustainable development, quadruple our funding for fair and ethical trade, and press for a fair World Trade Organisation deal, with no enforced liberalisation for poor countries, and increased duty free and quota free access.

Reforming Global Institutions

In today's world, power is shifting, flowing downwards and outwards towards new non-state actors, networked by modern communications. Governments and global institutions must respond to this change - and reform to meet new challenges. They need to be more effective but also more inclusive. To secure global change, we will make the case for:

- The extension of the G8.
- A clearer mandate for the World Bank to focus on the poorest countries and promote

low-carbon development;
and for the IMF to focus on
financial stability, with both
becoming more inclusive.

- Radical UN reform, including new membership of the Security Council, budgetary reform, and an overhaul of UN agencies.
- Continuing reform of NATO and stronger international co-operation to tackle security challenges, while building the capacity of regional security organisations including the African Union.
- The enduring role of the Commonwealth - a unique organisation for fostering understanding and trust, spanning a quarter of the world's population.

International commitments and a voice for Britain in global affairs are not an add-on for Labour. They are central to our vision of a better Britain. We have strengthened our international alliances and will continue to do so in ways that speak to our deepest values as a nation.

50 steps to a future fair for all

1. Secure the recovery by supporting the economy now and more than halve the deficit by 2014 through renewed economic growth, fair taxes and cuts to lower priority spending.
2. Realise our stakes in publicly controlled banks to secure the best deal for the tax-payer, introduce a new global levy, and reform the rules for banking to ensure no repeat of past irresponsibility.
3. Create UK Finance for Growth bringing £4 billion together to provide capital for growing businesses, investing in the growth sectors of the future.
4. Build a high-tech economy, supporting business and industry to create one million more skilled jobs and modernising our infrastructure with High Speed Rail, a Green Investment Bank and broadband access for all.
5. Encourage a culture of long-term commitment to sustainable company growth, making corporate takeovers harder by requiring a super-majority of two-thirds of shareholders.
6. 200,000 jobs through the Future Jobs Fund – at least 20,000 in Scotland with a job or training place for young people out of work for six months but benefits cut at ten months if they refuse a place; anyone unemployed for more than two years guaranteed work but no option of life on benefits.
7. A National Minimum Wage rising in line with earnings, and a new £40 a week Better Off in Work guarantee.
8. Sustainable modern apprenticeship places for adults and young people.
9. No stamp duty for first time buyers on all house purchases below £250,000 for two years, paid for by a five per cent rate on homes worth more than £1 million.
10. A People's Bank at the Post Office; a Universal Service Obligation on banks to serve every community; a clamp down on interest rates for doorstep and payday loans.

50 steps to a future fair for all

11. Every pupil in our primary schools being given the support they need to learn to read, write and count: placing literacy and numeracy at the centre of the primary curriculum; additional targeted support in English and Maths for those pupils who need it, with 1:1 learning support where required.
12. Every young person to have a named mentor to support their learning throughout their secondary years: reinstating average class sizes of 20 in English and Maths at S1 and S2; small group tuition where needed to help pupils overcome barriers to attainment.
13. Encouraging schools to innovate and develop specialist provision: giving head-teachers and their staff more control over resources; attracting the best entrants into teaching and retaining highly qualified young teachers within our education system; ensuring that adequate resources are available for professional development; and consulting with parents' organisations about extending the role that could be played by parents.
14. Increased co-operation between educational establishments: strengthening links within clusters of establishments serving each local area: creating Communities of Learning so that a comprehensive range of learning opportunities is accessible to everyone.
15. Each young person given the right to quality training or to stay on in education until 18 by 2015: choosing from a variety of pathways including advanced apprenticeship or technician level training, entering further or higher education, and staying on at school.
16. Spending on NHS front-line services protected.
17. A new right halving the time from one month to two weeks to see a cancer specialist and get results.
18. Making our hospitals cleaner and safer.
19. Cutting waiting times, driving up standards and ensuring that people are treated as close to their home as possible.
20. Our Alcohol Strategy will identify measures to tackle alcohol abuse.

50 steps to a future fair for all

21. Provide the funding to maintain police numbers and neighbourhood police teams in every area.
22. Guarantee fast and effective action to deal with anti-social behaviour, with new powers for neighbourhoods.
23. Intervene earlier to prevent crime, with no-nonsense action to tackle the problems caused by dysfunctional families.
24. Introduce tough new laws on knife crime: carry a knife and go to jail.
25. Support victims first with a Victims Commissioner
26. Control immigration through our Australian style points-based system, ensuring that as growth returns, we see rising levels of employment and wages not rising immigration, We will also require newcomers to earn citizenship and the entitlements it brings.
27. More help for parents to balance work and family life, with a 'Father's Month' of flexible paid leave in the first year of a child's life.
28. A new 'Toddler Tax Credit' of £4 a week from 2012 to give more support to all parents of young children – whether they want to stay at home or work.
29. The right to request flexible working for older workers, with an end to default retirement at 65, enabling more people to decide for themselves how long they choose to keep working.
30. Maintaining free personal care.
31. A re-established the link between the Basic State Pension and earnings from 2012; help for 10 million people to build up savings through new Personal Pension Accounts.

50 steps to a future fair for all

32. A golden decade of sporting success with the 2012 Olympics and the 2014 Commonwealth Games as great national and world-wide celebrations.
33. Two hours PE a week in schools.
34. Preserving the post offices on which community life depends.
35. Upholding the BBC's independence; giving Britain a world-leading digital and broadband infrastructure.
36. Create at least 40,000 new green jobs by 2015 and in Scotland achieve around 50 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.
37. Make it easier to live in greener ways through 'pay as you save' home energy and public recycling bins.
38. Provide free energy efficiency measures for social housing tenants and require landlords to properly insulate rented homes, campaign to ensure that Scottish householders benefit from a boiler scrappage scheme.
39. Defend the Forestry Commission from privatisation.
40. Ensure fairness for food producers through reform of the EU Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies and a Supermarkets Ombudsman; and support post offices, shops and pubs in rural communities.

50 steps to a future fair for all

41. **Following on from the Calman Commission giving the Scottish Parliament additional powers.**
42. **Legislation to ensure Parliaments sit for a fixed term and an All Party Commission to chart a course to a Written Constitution.**
43. **Referenda, held on the same day, for moving to the Alternative Vote for elections to the House of Commons and to a democratic and accountable Second Chamber.**
44. **Improved citizenship education for young people followed by a free vote in Parliament on reducing the voting age to 16.**
45. **A statutory register of lobbyists, with MPs banned from lobbying and required to seek approval for second jobs.**
46. **A Strategic Defence Review to equip our Armed Forces for 21st century challenges, and support our troops and Veterans**
47. **Use our international reach to build security and stability – combating terrorism and extremism, curbing proliferation, preventing and resolving conflict, and tackling climate change**
48. **Lead the agenda for an outward facing European Union that delivers jobs, prosperity and global influence**
49. **Re-energise the drive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, supporting sustainable growth and combating poverty**
50. **Reform the UN, International Financial Institutions, the G8 and G20, and NATO to adapt to the new global challenges.**