

This material was extracted from a document which listed the manifesto commitments and policy announcements of the Scottish Labour, Scottish Conservative, Scottish Green, Scottish Liberal and Scottish National Parties.

SCOTTISH ELECTION 2016 - SUMMARY OF MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS

Blue text is used for commitments announced during the campaign but not explicitly stated in manifestos.

		Manifesto commitments		
Issue	Description/ detail	SNP	Lib Dems	Scottish Greens
Arts and Culture	Creative Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Creative Industries Advisory Board. • We have delivered record screen sector support and we are committed to delivering permanent flexible studio space • We will create a new dedicated unit for film and TV, based within Creative Scotland, to streamline public sector support for the screen sector. It will combine expertise from our creative and enterprise partners and oversee support from development to production to distribution, prioritising input and advice from the industry itself. 	<p>We support the development of the Scottish film industry. We think that the absorption of Scottish Screen into Creative Scotland has not been beneficial to the industry. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of a range of Scottish film studio spaces; • Create a more autonomous, dedicated screen agency either within the umbrella of Creative Scotland or stand-alone to promote the development of film facilities, and oversee the training and mentoring of young filmmakers, technical and creative staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an 'Intermittent Work Scheme' which entitled working artists to monthly payments during breaks in work, ensuring that people from a range of backgrounds are able to access employment and stay in the Creative Industries. • Support UK-wide lobbying for the evidence-based reform of intellectual property and copyright legislation to promote the remuneration of artists rather than multinational corporations.

Arts and Culture	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Create a cultural experience fund to ensure that every primary school has the opportunity to visit Scotland's historic estates, theatres, museums and galleries. •We will continue the International Touring Fund and increase flexibility to assist with future planning. •We will develop a National Touring Fund for Theatre to help more theatre productions tour more often, providing more work for the theatre sector and more opportunities for more people to see productions across Scotland. •We will enhance the Edinburgh Festival Expo Fund...and examine how we can support performances to tour more widely across Scotland. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •'Overnight Visitor Levy'. Visit Scotland figures for 2014 show 64.29m nights, if these were taxed at £1 per night this would raise £65 million. • We believe councils should have a basket of tax options available to them if they choose – for example, raising funds through an Overnight Visitor Levy or local sales taxes. The revenue from these taxes would be small compared with property, income and non-domestic rates but can provide Councils with vital options to deliver local priorities. • Introduce a new 'Outcome for Culture' across all government departments, using the existing Scottish Government's National Performance Framework. • Work with local authorities to protect arts and culture budgets and increase funding to national creative bodies, to allow for outreach work. • Support budget increases from within the education budget for arts education in schools
Arts and Culture	Media/Broadcasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will continue to press for new TV and radio services for Scotland through the BBC Charter Renewal Process. •Should these not be delivered we will push for a new Scottish Production Fund to be established from a small share of TV licence revenue raised in Scotland. •We will maintain our investment in BBC Alba as a vital part of Scottish broadcasting output •We will create a new dedicated unit for film and TV, based within Creative Scotland, to streamline public sector support for the screen sector. It will combine expertise from our creative and enterprise partners and oversee support from development to production to distribution, prioritising input and advice from the industry itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to support a BBC free from the control of government Ministers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion a Scottish film studio • Create Scottish watchdog to monitor and challenge lack of gender diversity in media, gender stereotypes and sexualisation of women and girls in media • Collaborate with Scottish and UK-wide broadcasters to ensure they reflect, enable and present all of Scotland's people and all of Scotland's creativity.

<p>Arts and Culture</p>	<p>Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop Scotland's first ever Culture Strategy based on the principles of access, equity and excellence. •Refresh the Youth Music Initiative, provide support to young musicians and ensure that all young people have the opportunity to play an instrument by the team they leave school. •Provide support to give children greater access to cultural opportunities. •Protect free access to our National Galleries and Museums. •Look to widen the touring of our National Collections. •We support the central role of Gaelic arts in engaging people with the language, and enhancing the relevance of the language to Scottish society. •We will also provide support for the Scots language. •We will create a single library card to be used at any council library across Scotland. •2017 is our Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and we will work with Historic Environment Scotland and partners to create a long-term Infrastructure Investment Plan for restoring, enhancing and conserving our built heritage environment. We will support Historic Environment Scotland, as it takes forward the nation's first Historic Environment Strategy. •We will continue to invest in the National Libraries Strategy, including initiatives like coding clubs and WWI history projects and we will ensure that every child in Scotland receives a library membership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Include participation and enjoyment of culture in the NPF to promote wide access. •Develop sport, tourism and culture activities around all major sporting and cultural events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protect cultural spaces such as studios and arts venues through the national planning framework •Through the use of community right to buy legislation and the "right of first occupancy" encourage the use of the public spaces for cultural activities. •Require large developments to provide cultural space • Support reform to the law of defamation in Scotland to ensure adequate protections for citizen bloggers, artists and civil society who inform and enrich our culture and debates. • Ensure Noise Abatement legislation cannot be used to restrict existing venues • Encourage gender balance and diversity across cultural creators, producers, distributors, distribution channels and audiences, as well as those individuals responsible for governance and decision-making. Support cultural ventures in all the languages of Scotland, including measures to encourage the use of Gaelic, the Scots tongue and the languages of those from minority ethnic backgrounds.
-------------------------	----------------------	--	---	--

Business and Employability	Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•To support consumer rights - once consumer advice and advocacy powers are devolved to the Scottish Parliament - we will develop a Consumer and Competition Strategy and legislate to create a unified consumer body. This body will be given the powers to carry out research and representation and will use evidence, expertise and knowledge to stand up for consumers.•We will convene a summit with business and stakeholders to look at the issue of nuisance calls which are blighting the lives of vulnerable consumers, particularly the elderly. We will seek solutions to protect consumers from such bad practices.		
----------------------------	-----------	---	--	--

<p>Business and Employability</p>	<p>Employability Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase modern apprenticeships from 25,000 pa to 30,000 pa. by 2020 and provide free bus travel to all young people under 21 undertaking an apprenticeship. The additional places would be “in high-level science, technology and engineering courses that deliver the skills employers need and the high-wage jobs our young people deserve”. •We will also make sure that the programme addresses gender imbalances and is open to all by increasing the numbers of trainees who are disabled, care experiences or from a BME background. •Encourage small and medium enterprises and start-up companies to offer work placements, modern apprenticeships and paid internships to our young workforce. •We have also set up a £12 million Transition Training Fund to help oil workers retrain to get jobs in other sector, including renewables sector. •By increasing the number of Modern Apprenticeships in the third sector and social enterprises we will help to diversify skills and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Change the Scottish skills investment plan to make a diverse workforce a key challenge and priority. •Keep pressure on UKG to allow overseas graduates to continue making a contribution to Scotland, to fill skills gaps and benefit our economy. We will make sure the investment in education delivers the extra skills that Scottish business needs to improve productivity and succeed. We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Help schools develop links with local businesses and universities, echoing the report of the Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce; ● Give schools, working with parents, the freedom to develop specialisms; ● Work with employers to assess the skills needed by each business sector and increase the delivery of industry-recognised vocational qualifications from schools and colleges alongside academic qualifications; ● Support the current Scottish Government’s plan for 30,000 new apprenticeships and work on a sector skills basis with employers to have as many as possible of these at higher levels, with steps taken to increase the range of apprenticeships available for women, and for disabled people. •The Apprenticeship Levy is a proposal by the UK Government to charge bigger businesses a levy on their payroll. We will work to make sure that the revenues that come to the Scottish Government from it are used to provide better skills training, in partnership with business. We will consider using the revenues to cut business taxes for those that are already providing high levels of training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increased support for Modern Apprenticeships to break gender stereotypes and increase opportunities for disabled people and people from ethnic minority groups. •Increase funding for Modern Apprenticeships and science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to enable more young people, particularly young women, to move into renewable energy generation, supply and support. •Push for a new scheme delivered on a non-profit basis, contracted locally to the public and third sectors, which recognises the value of voluntary work and makes a genuine investment in participants’ skills. Such a scheme would address barriers to accessing work on account of age, disability, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. Greens will also push for devolution and expansion of the Access to Work scheme that supports disabled people to start or remain in work. -Apprenticeships must pay at least living wage, regardless of age. •Support measures to increase access to new jobs for groups under represented in science, technology and engineering, including women and people from minority ethnic groups. •Introduce a 'Scotland Guarantee' which would give every school leave education, training or a job. -Call for transferable digital skills to be taught in schools and for businesses to better engage with the education sector on the issue.
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---	---	--

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage business in the planning and delivery of sector skills through schools and colleges;• Reiterate support for enterprise education in schools as part of the enhancement of school education and the richer curriculum in the next five years | |
|--|--|--|---|--|

<p>Business and Employability</p>	<p>Employment Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will deliver devolved employment services (DWP's Work Programme and Work Choice Programme) in a different and better way It is likely that £7million will be transferred from the UK government to Scotland for employment support services for unemployed and disabled people. This is why we will invest an additional £20 million a year - over and above the funding that is transferred from Westminster - to ensure those who most need support get it. •To ensure continuity, transitional arrangements will be in place for one year from April 2017. We will then deliver new services from 2018 to provide effective support for those who face the most significant barriers to finding and sustaining employment. The services we put in place will be flexible and responsive and focussed on helping people into suitable and sustainable employment. The services will be nationally designed but delivered locally to reflect local circumstances and meet local need. We will ensure that the principles of fairness, dignity and respect are at the heart of our new services. •Employment and welfare programmes will be designed to take account of mental health conditions and bring an end to the difficulties people face with DWP. •Introduction of a "Jobs Grant" to help those that have been out of work start a new job. £100 (or £250 for those with children) will be offered to young people who have been out of work for 6 months. The SNP suggested this could help 6,000 young people a year as part of a drive to reduce youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Replace the Work Programme and Work Choice with new employability programmes that work in partnership with SDS, colleges, charities and other agencies. • Encourage entrepreneurship and start-up businesses with new networking opportunities, enterprise education in schools, and the expansion of creativity, innovation and excellence through culture and sport; • Make sure mental health services reflect the needs of business to retain a healthy workforce; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will support calls for a Gender Equality in Business scheme to incentivise gender-sensitive employment practices, and public procurement laws that allow decisions to be based on sustainability, equality, community benefit and local supply, not just the short-term cost. •Greens will also back a non-permanent commission to tackle gender and racial occupational segregation in the labour market and lay out the case for the devolution of equalities legislation. •Will push for a new scheme delivered on a non-profit basis, contracted locally to public and third sectors, which recognises the value of voluntary work and makes a genuine investment in participants skills. •Will push for the devolution and expansion of the Access to work scheme that supports disabled people to start or remain in work. •Campaign for new (Work Programme) provider contracts to include a clause preventing them from sharing information with DWP that would lead to a benefit sanction, thus ending sanctions for a significant number of benefit claimants in Scotland.
-----------------------------------	---------------------------	---	---	---

unemployment to 40% by 2021.
•Continue our support with a further £6million investment to fund a 700 more Community Jobs Scotland (which supports people aged 16 to 29 into training places in the third sector places).

<p>Business and Employability</p>	<p>Fair Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abolish fees for employment tribunals •We will continue our work to extend payment of the Living Wage We will double the number of accredited Living Wage employers from 500 to 1,000 by autumn 2017. •We will consider a system of penalties for local authorities that haven't settled outstanding equal pay claims, or are still not paying equal pay by April 2017. •We will establish an Advisory Council on Women and Girls to advise on action to tackle workplace and occupational segregation and other issues relating to gender equality. •We will always defend trade unionists' rights across the UK by opposing the Trade Union Bill and we will continue to make the case for employment law to be transferred to Scotland. We will work with the STUC and TUs to explore what support can be offered to mitigate the impact of the Bill and help them continue their legitimate activities. •Defend the Rights and Freedoms of Trade Unions. •We will implement the 2014 'Women in Enterprise Action Framework', developed in partnership with 'Women's Enterprise Scotland'. •In our first 100 days we will bring forward a new Labour Market Strategy informed by the work of the independent Fair Work Convention. •We will continue to crack down on inappropriate zero hours contracts. •Returnships: We will work with large employers to pilot returnships in Scotland, to help women who have had career breaks back into the workplace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will pay the Living Wage for all public services •Continue to expand the SG's Fair Business Pledge to encourage decent wages, profit sharing, workforce engagement, investment in young people, a balanced workforce with women in senior roles and prompt payment to suppliers. •We will support fair business practice. •We will restrict future business development funding, such as regional selective assistance, to companies that pay the Living Wage. •We will abolish fees for employment tribunals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Green MSPs will campaign for all care and support workers to be paid significantly above the Living Wage, financed by progressive taxation. •Apprenticeships must pay at least the living wage regardless of age. •Will campaign to make government business support only available to those companies who pay the Living Wage, avoid zero hours contracts, recognise trade unions, reduce the gap between the highest and lowest paid, pay men and women equally and are environmentally responsible. •Will campaign for employment, health and safety, equality and trade union law to be devolved. •Will continue to support trade union campaigns to deliver jobs with decent pay and conditions. •Promote direct employee involvement in all levels of work, such as management, business development and innovation. •Supports calls for a Gender Equality in Business Scheme to incentivise employment practices and public procurement laws that allow decisions to be based upon sustainability, equality, community benefit and local supply not just the short term cost. •Will also back a non-permanent commission to tackle gender and racial occupational segregation in the labour market
-----------------------------------	------------------	--	---	---

<p>Business and Employability</p>	<p>Growth and Investment in Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will support our small businesses - through an extension of the Small Business bonus. We will expand the Small business bonus to exempt 100,000 premises from business rates and use the full powers of the parliament to secure the most competitive business rates in the UK. •Carry out a review of the business rates regime to ensure it supports growth and investment. •We will also continue to support the delivery of the 'Scotland's Enterprising Schools' project to enable all schools to develop a values-based entrepreneurial culture amongst Scotland's young people. •We will implement the Global Scotland Trade and Investment Strategy to drive exports. •We will treble the number of exporting advisors in Scotland and fund new Innovation and Investment Hubs in London, Dublin and Brussels. •We will also assess whether smaller and rural businesses are able to compete on an even playing field for energy efficient measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will restrict future business development funding to companies that pay the living wage. •The Scottish Futures Trust has been given responsibility for managing much of the Scottish Government's capital programme. We support the steps that it has taken to create attractive investment opportunities to add to capital investment in Scotland. •We are concerned that the so-called Hub approach advocated by the Trust bundles too many projects into a single contract. This runs the risk of locking out smaller, more local companies from even submitting a tender. We will examine the case for breaking contracts into smaller parts to help small business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Create over 200,000 jobs in sustainable industries by 2035 (renewable energy and associated industries). •Will support social enterprise cooperatives and employee owned business to be at the heart of the economy. •Campaign to support credit unions and local banks to create a network of accountable finance institutions. •Will campaign to make government business support only available to those companies who pay the Living Wage, avoid zero hours contracts, recognise trade unions, reduce the gap between the highest and lowest paid, pay men and women equally and are environmentally responsible. •Will support Scotland's diverse economy with investment in sustainable industries and services that improve quality of life and reduce carbon emissions. •We will create an economic development agency for rural areas not covered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, including the South of Scotland. •Will push for the use of the Teckal exemption to ensure that local, publicly owned enterprises are favoured in procurement by the SG.
-----------------------------------	--	---	--	--

<p>Business and Employability</p>	<p>Innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will invite the First Minister's Council of Economic Advisers and Scotland CAN DO Innovation Forum to develop a range of specific actions as part of sustained national programme to boost productivity through innovation. •We will also direct the enterprise Agencies to focus on building a scale-up programme for start-up companies. •We will streamline the advise available to business to ensure resources are effectively deployed to support start-up and scale-up ventures. •We will simplify the way in which companies are able to access support for innovation. •We will continue to support our eight Innovation Centres, to assist the commercialisation of world-class research in big data, digital health, industrial biotechnology, sensor technology, construction, stratified medicine, aquaculture and oil and gas. •We will launch a new Innovation prize, with an annual award for the collaborative project that produces the optimum commercialisation from investment activity. •To target growth in regional economies, we will also establish Regional Economic Forums, led by the enterprise agencies with strong private sector involvement, to promote and oversee local business support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth of social enterprises in Scotland, to promote the innovation they can bring, and the wide group of people they draw into the productive economy; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase the use of green technology through increased research and development for strategically critical sectors such as liquid air energy storage and tidal stream. •Will support Scotland's diverse economy with investment in sustainable industries and services that improve quality of life and reduce carbon emissions. •Promote sustainable expansion in areas such as food production, clean chemical sciences, digital and creative industries, medical and life sciences, construction, engineering, forestry and the energy industry. •Support development and sustainable practices in sectors such as research and development, independent retail, tourism and sports, waste reuse and recycling, shipbuilding, textiles and design.
-----------------------------------	-------------------	---	---	---

Communities	Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will develop and implement a national strategy to tackle social isolation backed by a fund of £500,000 in 2016/17 and encourage use of the community empowerment fund for local community projects addressing issues of isolation and loneliness. •We aim to transform our democratic landscape, protect and renew public services and refresh the relationship between citizens, communities and councils. We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult on and introduce a Bill that will decentralise LA functions, budgets and democratic oversight to local communities. - Review and reform the role of CPPs so they are better placed to drive reform, including through use of citizens' panels and town hall meetings. - Continue to grow and develop City Deals, Town Centre Partnerships and Regional Economic Partnerships so that clusters of agencies and shared interests can work together for the benefit of their local economies and communities. •The Community Empowerment Act delivered new rights for communities and is backed by the Empowering Communities Fund and the Strengthening Communities Programme. We will build on this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting councils a target of having at least 1% of their budget subject to Community Choices budgeting. This will be backed by the Community Choices Fund to help public bodies and community groups build on examples of best practice. - Allowing community councils that can demonstrate a strong democratic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a formal protocol for helping refugees in Scottish communities, to build on good practice and make sure refugees and host communities get the support they need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strengthen local democracy through a Local Democracy Act that will require local authorities to create local democracy and public participation plans to devolve decisions and budgets to a more local level and will give councils the powers to implement new structures for local democratic participation. The Act would enshrine a clear duty to promote community participation in all local decisions about taxation; spending and services, including a legally-defined minimum proportion of local authority budgets to be decided through participatory budgeting •Control energy locally. We support the establishment of socially-owned renewable energy companies. Green MSPs will look to extend the Scottish Government target for renewable energy capacity to 1GW provided by community renewables and 1GW from locally owned projects by 2030 - that's quadrupling our supply in 15 years. •Help for communities: support measures to make available greater levels of grants, loans and financial advice for communities setting up new renewable energy schemes and to assist them to connect to the national grid. •Support the case for community buy-outs of renewable energy schemes on Scotland's largest estates, and recognize this may need further legislation beyond the current Land Reform proposal.
-------------	----------------------	--	---	--

		<p>mandate to deliver some services. We intend that in future community council elections will be held on the same day across the country to increase their profile and recognition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Encouraging improved tenant participation in management of their homes. We will use partner organisation to help tenants become more aware of their rights and encourage tenants to become more involved in the management of properties.•We want to encourage and make it easier for people from all backgrounds to get involved at all levels of decision making. Our elected representatives should better reflect the society we live in.•We will work to support the further growth of community and locally owned renewable energy projects, with new targets of 1 GW of community and locally-owned energy by 2020, and 2 GW by 2030.•We will ensure that by 2020, at least half of newly consented renewable energy projects will have an element of shared ownership. And we will argue for Scottish control of our share of feed-in tariffs to help promote community ownership schemes.•We will explore the potential to create a government owned energy company to help the growth of local and community energy projects. This will include empowering communities to use the income from energy developments to support other communities develop their energy potential.•We will give communities the opportunity to use some of their		
--	--	--	--	--

income from renew ables to support Scotland's Climate Justice Fund if they wish to do so.

- We will support community transport initiatives to train and qualify more minibus drivers.

Communities	Rural Communities	<p>The SNP have launched a manifesto for the islands. "Investment and empowerment are at the heart of the SNP's manifesto for the islands – a firm commitment to support the local economies while giving islanders a greater say over public services and resources." [Nicola Sturgeon, Times p10, 05/04/2016]. The manifesto for the islands has "ten key pledges":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will consult on and bring forward an Islands Bill to reflect the unique needs of these communities and implement our ten-point manifesto for our islands, and continue the Islands Working Group • Develop a National Islands Plan to ensure our islands fulfil their economic potential • We will establish a new Islands Strategic Group chaired by the Islands Minister to build on the work of the Islands Areas Working Group. • Maintain the Air Discount Scheme at 50 per cent; invest in quality ferry services; keep ferry fares as low as possible, and provide concessionary travel for our older people • We will protect the Road Equivalent Tariff to all routes in the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry services network and take action to reduce fares on ferry services to Orkney and Shetland. • Superfast broadband will be extended to all premises by 2021, and island businesses will benefit from the Small Business Bonus too • Record investment in our NHS, supporting health care across our islands with more health care in the community • Free childcare doubled and action to improve attainment in our schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an islands travel scheme for teams and individuals to compete in national events. • Campaign against further centralisation of services from rural areas by including protections for local authorities in the Public Service Leadership and Empowerment Act; • Introduce an Islands Act to island-proof all legislation, to give Scottish ministers the right to issue guidance to public authorities as to the way they can vary national services to make them more suitable for islands, subject to local authority consent; • Give Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council the same powers over their surrounding waters as offered to Orkney, Shetland and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar; • Campaign for the principle of a universal service obligation to be extended to energy prices, broadband, postal charges and telecoms to prevent the price discrimination against remote communities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will create an economic development agency for rural areas not covered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, including the South of Scotland.
-------------	-------------------	--	---	---

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure Winter Fuel Payments, which are being devolved to Holyrood, will be paid early to people who are “off-grid” – making a huge difference to older people in remote areas• £5 million investment to support island and Rural produce• Support the energy industry on the islands and push the UK Government to deliver the connections that are needed• Island communities will be able to control and determine how to invest 100 percent of locally raised Crown Estate revenues once these are devolved.• The post of a dedicated Ministerial post for islands will continue in the next government.• Through flexible grants, loans and guarantees we will help bring empty or derelict properties back into housing use. Through our Empty Homes Partnership, Empty Homes Fund and Town Centre Empty Homes Fund we will encourage councils and individuals to bring empty homes into use for rent or purchase. We will concentrate on rural areas and in need of increased housing and town centres that can be rejuvenated and regenerated through such initiatives.• We will also assess whether smaller and rural businesses are able to compete on an even playing field for energy efficient measures.• We will work with key stakeholders to design and develop a Rural Infrastructure Plan which addresses key economic and social needs and we will pilot local rural infrastructure and development plans in Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders to		
--	--	---	--	--

create sustainable economic, social and community development.

- We will create a Rural Housing Fund with investment of £25 million over the next three years to build new, affordable houses, enabling the needs of older people to be met more appropriately and young people and families to stay or make their lives in rural communities.
- We will set up a Taskforce to explore new ways to help rural households heat their homes affordably.
- We also support the campaign to promote and extend hutting and we will develop planning guidance to support an increased number of huts in Scotland.
- We will support and promote the Scottish National Trail which links up Scotland's great trails network
- We are committed to the continuation of the Rural Parliament as a grassroots voice for Rural Scotland.
- We will maintain the Road Equivalent Tariff discount scheme on Hebrides and lifeline ferry routes, continue the air discount scheme currently in operation for passengers and also protect lifeline air services.
- We are committed to maintaining RET on all current island ferry routes and also to reducing ferry fares on services to Orkney and Shetland.
- We will look to bring forward planned investment to improve road links to the Cairnryan ferry hub by 2020.
- We will deliver £1.3 billion of funding via the Scottish Rural Development Programme to support the rural economy, rural communities, address the impact of climate change and protect the natural environment.

Communities	Volunteering/Third Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will encourage and support third sector organisations, social enterprises, and credit unions to enter the market place to fill gaps in the provision of services or to offer alternatives to current providers that are not offering services people can access easily or affordably. This includes energy, banking, payday loans, debt management and funeral planning. •We will take steps to consolidate voluntary sector funding into single grant funds to provide greater clarity to applicants. We will also support the extension of core funding. •We will introduce three year rolling funding where possible. We will introduce a system across government that highlights when funding is due to end, to provide greater clarity for the sector and enable better planning for the longer term. •We will provide support to help social enterprises compete for public sector contracts and encourage councils to promote the procurement of services and goods in their local area from the third sector. •We will continue to work with the sector, with BASE and others using public sector spend, to provide practical help for those businesses employing large numbers of people with a disability, so that they have an opportunity to thrive and prosper. •By increasing the number of Modern Apprenticeships in the third sector and social enterprises we will help to diversify skills and training. •Continue our support with a further £6million investment to a fund a 700 more Community Jobs Scotland (which 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Encourage public sector organisations to value volunteering by their employees and help with flexible working to support it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will support social enterprises, cooperatives and employee owned businesses to be at the heart of the economy. •Will push for a new scheme delivered on a non-profit basis, contracted locally to public and third sectors, which recognises the value of voluntary work and makes a genuine investment in participants skills.
-------------	---------------------------	---	---	---

		supports people aged 16 to 29 into training places in the third sector places).		
--	--	---	--	--

<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Justice System - Access to Justice - criminal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will implement our Action Plan aimed at eliminating child sexual exploitation and take forward measures to Stop and Listen to children, equipping professionals and agencies with the skills they need to identify and take appropriate action when children tell of being sexually abused. •We will also lead work to improve the child protection system, including reviewing the law to ensure it provides adequate protection against all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and harm. •We will establish Community Justice Scotland to provide leadership and strategic direction in the planning and delivery of community sentences. This will support the rehabilitation of offenders and reduce reoffending. •We will improve community-based alternatives to short-term prison sentences, including restricting liberty through the increased use of electronic monitoring, combined with support in the community. We will support new efforts to deliver effective alternatives to custody – the national roll out of Fiscal Work Orders provides an efficient response to relatively minor offending, while Community Payback Orders provide the court with a robust and flexible community sentencing tool. •We will continue to improve the administration of justice creating a modern, user-focussed justice system through the greater use of digital technology to deliver simple, fast and effective justice. •We will consider the Evidence and Procedure Review by the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service. It makes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oppose further court closures • Make sure Community Justice Scotland is able to oversee the establishment of many more alternative sentences. Educate sheriffs and judges to use these more effective remedies; • Support the Angiolini reforms on women offenders and apply the same principles to our response to male offending; • Retain the need for corroboration in criminal cases; • Take major action to improve conviction rates for sexual offences, including consideration of legislation to allow research to be undertaken with jury members, the right of juries to be able to ask questions of expert witnesses or the provision of an expert adviser to assist juries with expert evidence, together with suggestions made in the Bonomy review; •Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12. •Ensure that the stop and search code of conduct fully recognises the unique vulnerability of children and to listen to the persuasive evidence against the introduction of a potential new search power for children based on the possession of alcohol •Support a review of the way in which children get access to the justice system and how their experience can be improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will ensure geography and means are not a barrier to accessing justice and will enhance legal aid. •Support measures to strengthen protection for children from assault, including removal of the defence of 'reasonable chastisement'. • Violence against women: work to establish a right to independent legal representation for women who have experienced domestic abuse and rape and sexual assault; remove means testing for Protective Orders; abolish the not proven verdict in Scottish law; and implement medical examination guidelines.
--------------------------------------	--	---	--	---

a compelling case for further reforms in our justice system, particularly in relation to how child and vulnerable witnesses give evidence.

- We will conduct Jury research ahead of any further proposals to reform the criminal justice system.
- We will reform and modernise Scotland's system of Legal Aid, to continue to maintain wide access to public funding for legal advice and representation in both civil and criminal cases alongside measures to expand access to alternatives methods of resolving disputes.

<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Justice System - Access to Justice - non criminal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We are committed to using new Housing and Property Tribunal to encourage access to justice and dispute resolution. To support this, we will ensure that the Tribunal doesn't charge fees to tenants or landlords. •We will continue to improve the administration of justice creating a modern, user-focussed justice system through the greater use of digital technology to deliver simple, fast and effective justice. •Publish a Family Justice Modernisation Strategy looking at how to improve the way cases are dealt with and how to make sure the voice of the child is best heard. We are engaging with key stakeholders to get their views on what should be included in the strategy. •We will reform and modernise Scotland's system of Legal Aid, to continue to maintain wide access to public funding for legal advice and representation in both civil and criminal cases alongside measures to expand access to alternatives methods of resolving disputes. •In implementing the recommendations of Sheriff Principal Taylor's review of the Costs and Funding of Civil Litigation in Scotland we will make Scotland's civil justice system more accessible. •We will take forward a consultation to review the regulation of the legal profession in Scotland and to support a modern and effective legal sector, including new forms of business model. •By reforming and modernising the law of succession in Scotland, we will ensure a clear and fair legal framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oppose further court closures •Support a review of the way in which children get access to the justice system and how their experience can be improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will ensure geography and means are not a barrier to accessing justice and will enhance legal aid. • Support greater use of Alternative Dispute Resolutions mechanisms and Scotland's full compliance with the Aarhus Convention on rights and access to justice on environmental law . • Support reform to the law of defamation in Scotland to ensure adequate protections for citizen bloggers, artists and civil society who inform and enrich our culture and debates.
--------------------------------------	--	---	---	--

		for the law of inheritance, relevant to modern Scottish society and the rights of individuals and families.		
--	--	---	--	--

<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Justice System - Reoffending</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensure money from court fines paid in Scotland, stays in Scotland. •We will establish Community Justice Scotland to provide leadership and strategic direction in the planning and delivery of community sentences. This will support the rehabilitation of offenders and reduce reoffending. We will improve community-based alternatives to short-term prison sentences, including restricting liberty through the increased use of electronic monitoring, combined with support in the community. We will support new efforts to deliver effective alternatives to custody – the national roll out of Fiscal Work Orders provides an efficient response to relatively minor offending, while Community Payback Orders provide the court with a robust and flexible community sentencing tool. •We will work to ensure an effective response to female offending. This will include enhanced access to community sentencing and support and the development of a new model for the female custodial estate, with a smaller national women’s prison and local community-based custody units. These units will provide accommodation as women serve out their sentence, with access to intensive support to help overcome issues such as alcohol, drugs, mental health and domestic abuse trauma which evidence shows can often be a driver of offending behaviour. The units will be located in areas close to the communities of female offenders so that family contact can be maintained and to aid rehabilitation. •We will ask the Sentencing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reoffending can be reduced by: •Partnership working of agencies and services and encouraging greater use of diversion from prosecution schemes and programs of meaningful activity for those given a custodial sentence. -Short prison sentences of less than twelve months to be abolished. -Increase the use of non-custodial sentences and educational disposals. -Provide robust rehabilitation programmes. -Reform that ensures custodial sentences are only used for those who pose a threat to the public.
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	--	--

		<p>Commission to monitor and evaluate the approach to sentencing of sexual offences, particularly those against children, to ensure it is consistent, proportionate and appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will improve the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of people who have committed offences and complete the implementation of the parole reform project to modernise and improve support for the vital work of the Parole Board.		
--	--	--	--	--

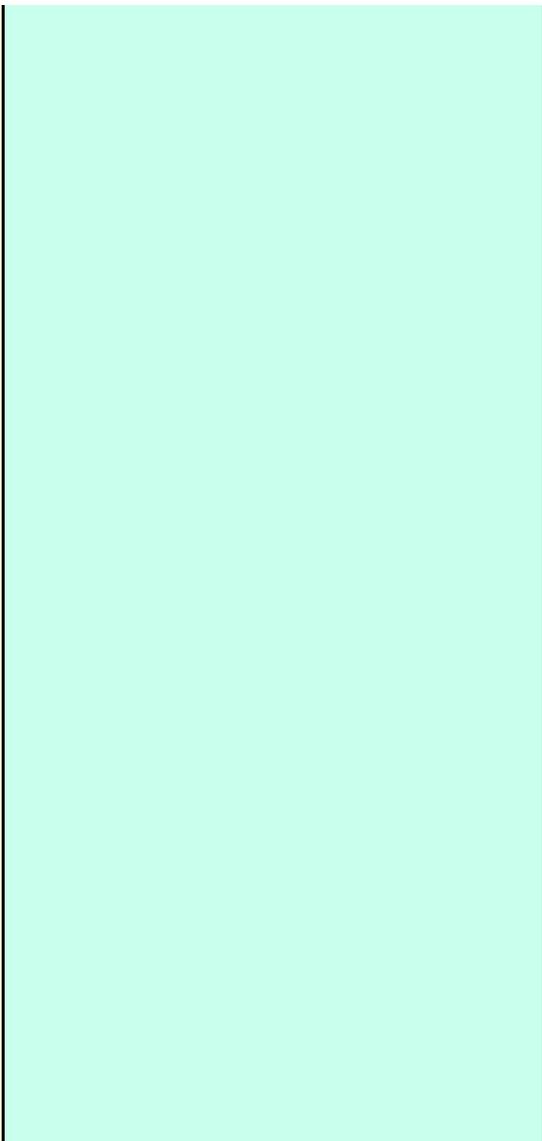
<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Justice System - Victims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will look at what more can be done to provide appropriate financial, legal and practical support for women victims of sexual and domestic abuse including reviewing the way forensic examinations are undertaken to ensure they are done appropriately and sensitively. •We will put in place sustainable arrangements to protect the interests of individuals when sensitive records and documents are requested by the court. In line with the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, we will work with key stakeholders to develop Scotland's first Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, to improve measures to address the causes of trafficking and exploitation, bring offenders to justice and better identify and support both child and adult victims. •We will invest £14.5 million over five years to support survivors of all ages to recover from the trauma of historic, recent and current abuse. •We will lift the time bar on the right of survivors to bring forward civil claims against those who abused them, in circumstances where they were abused after 1964. Human rights law prevents this approach for claims arising before 1964 so we will consider what more can be done to provide these older survivors with urgent financial and practical support. •We will work with care providers to ensure that they play an appropriate role in this. And we will ensure that the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is progressed and completed in the next Parliament. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the full range of rights and support for the victims of crime, previously agreed but not yet implemented by the Scottish Government. These include a single point of contact for victims, more information about delayed court cases and more consistent information about the release of offenders 	
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	---	---	--

<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will continue to support Police Scotland and ensure that they have the resources they need to protect the people of Scotland. •We will protect the police revenue budget in real terms for the entirety of the next parliament – delivering an additional £100 million of investment over the next five years. •We strengthened our police service with 1,000 extra officers, helping to reduce crime to a 41-year low . •We will ensure that the police also have more specialists, such as experts in cyber-crime and counter-fraud and that the service has the right mix and numbers of staff for the future. •We will continue to support the range of police services, including community policing, specialist support, training, forensics services, ICT and criminal records, serious and organised crime, drug enforcement and counter terrorism. •We will strengthen the accountability of policing by implementing the conclusions of the governance review being led by the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). •We will also work with the SPA and with Police Scotland to strengthen the local community focus of policing and to refresh the Strategic Policing Priorities. •We will continue to make the case to the UK Government to extend a VAT exemption to Scottish emergency services, potentially releasing £23 million for investment in policing and £10 million for the fire service (it could pay for 680 police officers) •The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is in a similar situation and is liable to 	<p>We will restore traditional Scottish policing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include the concerns of rank-and-file police officers in our Public Service Leadership and Empowerment Act to enable them to exercise their professional discretion more effectively; ● Define in statute the powers of the Chief Constable now that the traditional tri-partite system of Scottish policing has been ended; ● Restore power to the Chief Constable and the Scottish Police Authority to determine the exact mix of staff required for effective policing; ● Increase the funding for Police Scotland by £20 million, and protect it in real terms, to make sure that the failure of the Scottish Government’s centralisation to generate savings does not hit staff numbers; ● Strengthen the role of the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner to look into serious incidents, addressing the shortcoming in the present power to question police officers immediately after a serious incident; ● Transfer control of the British Transport Police to Police Scotland but seek to retain the ring-fenced expertise of officers on transport related matters; ● Request that the UK Government lifts the VAT obligation on Police Scotland, and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, or allocates the proceeds back to the Scottish funding block, given that it has recently exempted a number of other UK bodies from paying VAT. <p>•Oppose centralisation and closure of police control rooms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reform to Police Scotland by: •Encouraging diversity across all levels of the organisation. •Improving accountability by reviewing authorisation procedures and privacy protection mechanisms regarding surveillance powers. •Review of the Police Complaints Procedure, with a view to introducing greater independence from the Police. •An evidenced need for firearm deployment. -We will call for more rights-based training for police and staff within the justice system on equality issues including hate crime, violence against women, trauma, and learning disabilities. -Devolution of power and resources to local division level is required. Policing priorities should reflect local wishes and, as the present structure permits, be set and overseen by locally elected police committees. -Advocate for proportionate use of force; -We will work towards local policing that is accountable to independent, democratically controlled police authorities and investment in community policing to focus efforts on crime prevention.
--------------------------------------	---------------	--	---	---

an annual cost of around £10 million, money that could pay for 350 fire-fighters.

- We will aim to ensure that all police officers receive appropriate training to support the investigation of hate crimes and also work towards all new police and fire service recruits receiving equality training.
- Scotland's police are not and will not be routinely armed. The Scottish Government is working closely with all of Scotland's emergency services to ensure that Scotland is appropriately and proportionately protected against all forms of threat, including terrorism. This includes consideration of Police Scotland's armed policing capacity and capability. The Chief Constable has made clear that he keeps this under review based on our understanding of the evolving threat, and we will continue to support him in doing so.
- A focus on prevention and improving the safety of communities is at the heart of new plans for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). People are being asked for their views on a new Fire Framework which sets out ten priorities for the Service from 2016. This framework will support SFRS to keep making improvements by promoting the broader safety and wellbeing of individuals and communities, improving fire safety and promoting fire prevention. We are consulting widely on the draft framework and want to hear from as many people as possible to help shape the document, which will set out the main priorities for the SFRS.

•Stop the backfilling of civilian roles by police officers.



<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Prison Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support and the development of a new model for the female custodial estate, with a smaller national women's prison and local community-based custody units. These units will provide accommodation as women serve out their sentence, with access to intensive support to help overcome issues such as alcohol, drugs, mental health and domestic abuse trauma which evidence shows can often be a driver of offending behaviour. The units will be located in areas close to the communities of female offenders so that family contact can be maintained and to aid rehabilitation. •We will improve the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of people who have committed offences and complete the implementation of the parole reform project to modernise and improve support for the vital work of the Parole Board. •Long-term prisoners who pose an unacceptable risk to public safety will now serve more of their sentence in custody. Ending automatic early release for our most serious offenders is part of our action to achieve a more balanced justice system in Scotland. This will protect our communities from serious offenders, while those at the lower end of the scale receive community-based alternatives with targeted support to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduce overall prisoner numbers. • Extend throughcare for all prisoners, not just those serving sentences of more than four years, to give all offenders a clear right to support when they are out of prison; • Promote new partnerships with the third sector to help more prisoners get into successful employment after release. • Introduce a new presumption against short prison sentences of less than 12 months. This will maximise the chance of successful rehabilitation if offenders are diverted to robust community sentences. There is good evidence on the impact of this policy on young offenders which can be used to support the same policy in the mainstream prison system 	<p>No mention beyond abolishing short sentences (below 12 months)</p>
--------------------------------------	-----------------------	---	---	---

<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Tackling Crime - Drugs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support the development of a new model for the female custodial estate, with a smaller national women's prison and local community-based custody units. These units will provide accommodation as women serve out their sentence, with access to intensive support to help overcome issues such as alcohol, drugs, mental health and domestic abuse trauma which evidence shows can often be a driver of offending behaviour. The units will be located in areas close to the communities of female offenders so that family contact can be maintained and to aid rehabilitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Change drug policy and treat drug use as a health and social issue rather than a criminal one •Address the mental health, social, housing and employment problems that often accompany drug addiction. •Work with the Sentencing Council to change prosecution and sentencing guidelines to refer those arrested for possession of drugs for personal use for treatment, education or civil penalties, ending the use of imprisonment, and allowing more enforcement efforts on supply •Explore if the approach adopted in Portugal, to refer all those arrested for personal possession drug offences to an assessment panel, can bring benefits to Scotland •Recognise that a large percentage of the current prison population have addiction problems and institute a step-change treatment of their addiction prior to release •Provide heroin-assisted treatment where this is judged to be the safest and most effective option •Take effective UK-wide action to tackle drug importation, with overseas action where necessary, and take firm action to prosecute domestic drug production. •For the UK as a whole the Liberal Democrats support a change in the law to allow cannabis for personal use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Decriminalisation of the cultivation and possession of cannabis for personal use, and decriminalisation of possession of drugs that grow wild in the UK. •Licensing for the supply of cannabis and propose that other currently illicit drugs required as part of a programme of treatment for addiction are supplied through pharmacist-run treatment centres. •Enforcement of existing laws should prioritise targeting major illicit suppliers, and penalties should reflect accurate assessment of harm. •Increased investment in the full range of drug and alcohol treatment programmes.
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------	--	--	--

<p>Crime, Policing & Justice</p>	<p>Tackling Crime - Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will also lead work to improve the child protection system, including reviewing the law to ensure it provides adequate protection against all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and harm. •Will continue to cooperate closely with partner agencies, both in the UK and further afield, to combat the threat of global terrorism and extremism. We will continue to strengthen the already robust measures that are in place to help safeguard people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation or at risk from any form of extremism. •We are pressing the UK government to strengthen the Proceeds of Crime legislation to make it more difficult for criminals to avoid paying up. We will argue for changes in the law at Westminster to enable the police to seize items of monetary value from criminals, such as high value betting slips and casino chips. Money seized through the Proceeds of Crime Act is reinvested in the Cash Back for Communities programme, a unique Scottish Government initiative which reclaims cash to fund activities and opportunities in local communities. Since 2008/09 Cash Back has committed over £75 million to projects and organisations that work with young people, delivering more than 1.8 million activities and opportunities throughout the country. •A new statutory domestic abuse aggravator will also be introduced to ensure courts take domestic abuse into account when sentencing an offender. We will also legislate to create a new specific offence to help tackle domestic abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduce a new offence of domestic abuse. •Tackle bullying, act on hate crime and add to the training of frontline professionals so they can always provide equal services for diverse groups of people •Legislate to prohibit the physical punishment of children •Recognise that a large proportion of current prisoners have addiction problems and institute a step-change treatment of their addiction prior to release 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tackling violence: we will propose increased support for the vital work undertaken by the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and for a sustainable, long-term funding plan to resource violence against women services, including women's aid groups and rape crisis centres. Whilst also ensuring that there is appropriate support for LGBT+ people who have experienced violence / have been subject to domestic or sexual abuse. •Hate Crime: work to improve the research, collection of data and reporting processes. -Stand firm against hate crime and show leadership on tackling crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. -Development of an action plan to tackle Islamophobia and religious hate crimes. •Support measures to strengthen protection for children from assault, including removal of the defence of 'reasonable chastisement'.
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	---	---

Democracy	Independence Referendum	•We will undertake new work, starting in the summer, to persuade a clear majority of the Scottish people that independence is the best future for our country.	We will not support a second referendum on independence in the next parliamentary term. Full stop.	•In a referendum which has come about by the will of the people (for e.g. triggered by a public petition which in turn triggers a vote, Greens would campaign for independence.
-----------	-------------------------	--	--	---

Democracy	Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to promote gender balance in all areas of society - and support the 50:50 by 2020 initiative to increase, to 50%, the representation of women in our Parliament, councils, and public bodies. • We will also support the One in Five Campaign to increase the participation of disabled people. We will build on the example of the pilot fund for the 2016 elections and establish a £200,000 Elected Office Fund to provide support for disabled people seeking to stand for selection election in the 2017 local government elections. • We will implement the new powers being devolved in the Scotland Act 2016 and make the case for even greater powers over tax, welfare and the economy to be devolved to Scotland. • We will ensure the UKG delivers in full on their commitments they made for a more powerful parliament and protection of the Barnett formula for as long as Scotland's funding is determined by Westminster. • We will continue our opposition to the unelected House of Lords and argue for its abolition. • We are committed to the continuation of the Rural Parliament as a grassroots voice for Rural Scotland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Science & Technology Committee of the Scottish Parliament to raise the profile of science; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give Scotland a written constitution produced by the Scottish people in a citizen-led process that will be the basis of a democratic renaissance in all areas of Scottish life. A constitution that protects rights for marginal groups will also drive equality in Scotland. • Creating a more accessible People's Parliament: Will champion new ways for the public to become involved in the legislative process, including through radical democratic processes like citizens' juries. • Reforming Holyrood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o More effective Parliamentary Committees: strengthening the committee system's ability to hold government to account and as a first step will call for committee chairs to be elected by Parliament, not Party bosses. o establish public scrutiny committees made up of randomly selected citizens; community representatives, local councillors and others; o hold regular Public Questions session, in which members of the public can pose questions to Scottish ministers. o Public Voice at Holyrood: citizens should be able to push Holyrood into holding debates on issues of public interest by presenting petitions with an appropriate threshold, without the Public Petitions Committee having a veto. o Citizens should be able to play a direct role in the legislative process: on presenting a petition signed by an appropriate number of voters, citizens and be able to trigger a vote on important issues of devolved responsibility. • Will fight all the way through the next Holyrood term for more powers to be devolved on a case-by-case basis, as well as calling for a new devolution package once it becomes clear what the strengths and weaknesses are of the forthcoming Scotland Act. • Support the use of a Single Transferable Vote for future Holyrood elections.
-----------	------------	--	--	---

Democracy	Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will invite a cross party group, including civic society, to establish a collaborative process, engaging with people across Scotland and learning from best global practice in participatory democracy, to advise on the guaranteed protections we should seek to enshrine in law . •We aim to transform our democratic landscape, protect and renew public services and refresh the relationship between citizens, communities and councils. We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult on and introduce a Bill that will decentralise LA functions, budgets and democratic oversight to local communities. - Review and reform the role of CPPs so they are better placed to drive reform, including through use of citizens' panels and town hall meetings. - Continue to grow and develop City Deals, Town Centre Partnerships and Regional Economic Partnerships so that clusters of agencies and shared interests can work together for the benefit of their local economies and communities. •We want to encourage and make it easier for people from all backgrounds to get involved at all levels of decision making. Our elected representatives should better reflect the society we live in. • We will continue to promote gender balance in all areas of society - and support the 50:50 by 2020 initiative to increase , to 50%, the representation of women in our Parliament, councils, and public bodies. •We will also support the One in Five Campaign to increase the participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Extend, wherever we can, the right to vote to young people aged 16 and 17 •Make it easier for young people to register to vote, including supplying information and registration forms to schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Creating a more accessible People's Parliament: Will champion new ways for the public to become involved in the legislative process, including through radical democratic processes like citizens' juries. • Reforming Holyrood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o More effective Parliamentary Committees: strengthening the committee system's ability to hold government to account and as a first step will call for committee chairs to be elected by Parliament, not Party bosses. o establish public scrutiny committees made up of randomly selected citizens; community representatives, local councillors and others; o hold regular Public Questions session, in which members of the public can pose questions to Scottish ministers. o Public Voice at Holyrood: citizens should be able to push Holyrood into holding debates on issues of public interest by presenting petitions with an appropriate threshold, without the Public Petitions Committee having a veto. o Citizens should be able to play a direct role in the legislative process: on presenting a petition signed by an appropriate number of voters, citizens and be able to trigger a vote on important issues of devolved responsibility. • Will fight all the way through the next Holyrood term for more powers to be devolved on a case-by-case basis, as well as calling for a new devolution package once it becomes clear what the strengths and weaknesses are of the forthcoming Scotland Act. •Support the use of a Single Transferable Vote for future Holyrood elections.
-----------	---------------	--	---	--

		<p>of disabled people. We will build on the example of the pilot fund for the 2016 elections and establish a £200,000 Elected Office Fund to provide support for disabled people seeking to stand for selection election in the 2017 local government elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will work with Civic Society to establish a set of social and economic rights across the devolved areas for all of Scotland's citizens and embed Scotland's National Act Plan on Human Rights and the UN Sustainable Development goals in our National Performance Framework.		
--	--	--	--	--

Democracy	Public Information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the creation of the Scottish Government's intrusive ID database; • Develop the approach taken in Estonia where data is considered to belong to the citizen and where people have the right to know who has accessed their information; • Take steps to safeguard people from the misuse of their data, CCTV images or biometric information; • Cut down the number of nuisance calls by stopping publicly-funded bodies sharing the telephone numbers of their clients without express permission; • Extend Freedom of Information to private and voluntary sector bodies performing public services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act to automatically apply to any organisation performing a public function and end the exemption for the Royal Family. • Will fight for all public authorities to routinely publish the public data they produce (with exemptions for personal information) in easily useable formats through a national online open public data gateway.
-----------	--------------------	--	---	--

Democracy	Public Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Making better use of technology to simplify the process of applying for benefits and bring services closer to the people who use them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Encourage public sector organisations to value volunteering by their employees and help with flexible working to support it. •We will establish the Scottish Fiscal Commission on the same basis as the UK's OBR in order to provide independent forecasts of the economy and public finances. •The Scottish Futures Trust has been given responsibility for managing much of the Scottish Government's capital programme. We support the steps that it has taken to create attractive investment opportunities to add to capital investment in Scotland. •We are concerned that the so-called Hub approach advocated by the Trust bundles too many projects into a single contract. This runs the risk of locking out smaller, more local companies from even submitting a tender. We will examine the case for breaking contracts into smaller parts to help small business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Using the model of the Public Sector Equality Duty, we will call for a Democracy and Public Participation Duty to apply to all public bodies and all other organisations performing public functions. This would require organisations fulfilling public functions to show that the public are consulted adequately when they take decisions and to demonstrate how their decisions will impact on their right to be involved with the design and delivery of their public services •Will campaign for the public appointments procedure to be more open, accessible and transparent and for major public bodies like Creative Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority to reserve at least one place on their boards for "citizen governors" representing the Scottish public. •We will create an economic development agency for rural areas not covered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, including the South of Scotland. •Support empowering local authorities to issue low carbon infrastructure bonds, divest public pension funds from fossil fuels, tobacco and firearms, deliver City Deals based on sustainable industries and create local energy companies to deliver clean energy, cheaper heating and plough profits back into public services.
-----------	-----------------	---	---	---

Digital	Freedom of expression		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Protect free speech, investigative journalism and academic peer-reviewed publishing through reform of the law on defamation to ensure it is suitable for the digital age, has a 'public interest' defence, and is available for genuine cases and not used to curtail free expression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support reform to the law of defamation in Scotland to ensure adequate protections for citizen bloggers, artists and civil society who inform and enrich our culture and debates.
---------	-----------------------	--	---	---

Digital	Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will refresh our internet safety action plan, linking it to our strategy on digital participation, so that appropriate frameworks of training, support and information are in place for professionals and families, including children and young people.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Ensure that digital access is available for all - applying for jobs, joining clubs or local events, finding out about social security, accessing digital healthcare or getting information on all aspects of life – access to the internet is becoming vital.•Call for transferable digital skills to be taught in schools and for businesses to better engage with the education sector on the issue.•To unlock power in Scotland access to technology must be improved and digital media must not be vulnerable to control by vested corporate interests. We will advocate for an independent public Technology and Society Forum to protect digital rights and improve digital access across Scotland. The Forum would engage the public to help in drawing up recommendations for government and industry. The internet itself offers tools to make such a forum open, inclusive and participative
---------	---------------	--	--	---

Digital	Provision of superfast broadband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •£400m to deliver superfast broadband to 95 per cent of properties across Scotland by the end of 2017. •We will deliver 100% superfast broadband coverage for Scotland by the end of the next parliament. •Over the next Parliament superfast digital broadband services will be delivered to all premises across Scotland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensure every home in Scotland has access to broadband • Complete coverage of super-fast broadband and mobile phone across Scotland, using additional support from our Fit For The Future Investment Fund for innovative ways to do this, for example using unused TV channels where appropriate; 	Support the Scottish Government in its endeavour to have fibre broadband reach 95% of Scotland by March 2018 and will push for faster action on the remaining 5% – the most remote and hard-to-reach places.
---------	----------------------------------	---	--	--

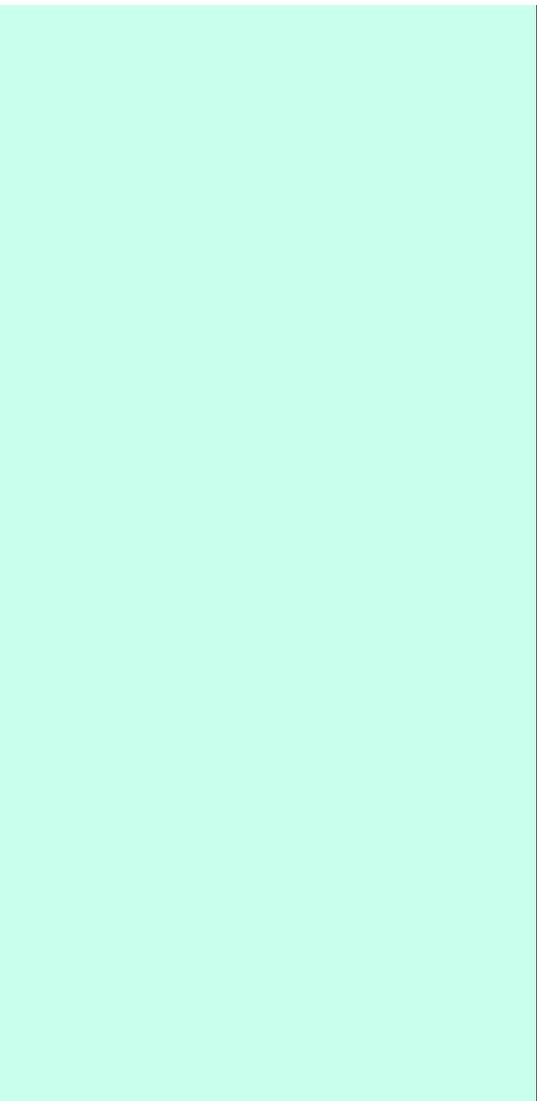
<p>Education - Higher</p>	<p>Colleges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will continue to provide support to Syrians who have arrived in Scotland through the Resettlement Programme and who wish to take up college or University Courses. We will also examine a change in the rule on providing support for students who are seeking asylum or refugee status, including enabling them to qualify for free tuition. •We will maintain at least 116,000 full-time equivalent college places each year, and make it easier for young people to progress from college to university. •We will reform student support funding to make it fairer and equitable to students throughout their learner journey from 16 to 24. •We will go further by reviewing education provision for all 16 to 24 year olds so their learning journey is as effective and efficient as possible and provides more stepping stones to success for those needing most support. •We will continue our 2011 commitment to maintain the number of full-time equivalent college places that lead to employment. Our focus will be on ensuring that the sector contributes to boosting productivity, encourages progression and helps tackle in-work poverty. We will do more to support people to complete courses and to support those who wish to move on to university. And we will ensure better recognition for skills achieved through informal learning and youth-related activities. •We will maintain the minimum student income guarantee and work to increase the bursary element of it. But 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reversal of college cuts, investing £108m a year •We will invest money from our Penny for Education to take college funding up to record levels. •Our priorities for new courses will be for part-time provision for those who are in work or have caring commitments, new skills for people wanting to change career, and basic learning skills for those trying to enter the workforce for the first time. •We will provide £30 million of new bursaries and support for students in higher and further education. •This will be used to meet the recommendation from the Commission on Widening Access for the new Commissioner for Fair Access to determine what level of individual bursary support is needed to attract students from poorer backgrounds to higher education. •We will also give young people leaving care a full non-repayable bursary to support their studies and widen access, as recommended by the commission, and take forward the other recommendations to give all people in our society the opportunity to succeed. •Our additional support will also allow us to protect the bursary paid to nursing and midwifery students, and to recognise that the demands of these courses make it difficult for students to take outside work. •We will raise the threshold for repaying student loans from £17,495 to £21,000, cutting the monthly payments for graduates. •For college students we will add £5m to bursary support for colleges to meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funding parity for college and university students. Further detail on this includes supporting the National Union of Students' Scotland's Shaping Scotland's Future campaign, including calls for financial support to increase with inflation, a benefits system that does not claw back student support payments and improved services for students experiencing mental ill-health. •Greater investment in further education. • Re-introduction of part-time and access courses that are vital for allowing those from the most deprived backgrounds to access education. • Supporting measures to address the underrepresentation of minority ethnic young people in further education. -Support a national entitlement to locally-delivered bursaries for all students in further education. This means that all students can access support and know how much they will receive before starting their course. -Call for institutions to adequately fund college student associations and unions. -Give students financial support over the summer months, push for student options to access a national hardship fund to help prevent students dropping out of education between academic years, or to rebalance their bursary and extend their loan payments to stretch over the summer months. -Support action to break down the barriers to further and higher education. -Support proposals are designed to remove financial barriers to education and we agree with the Commission on Widening Access that "inequality in higher education is unfair, damaging and unsustainable". We will use its findings and recommendations published in March to ensure action on access to education is as bold as it can be.
---------------------------	-----------------	--	---	--

student funding is complex and varies between colleges and universities. We will review support so that funding follows individual students rather than places of study.

- Students also need practical and pastoral support, so we will explore how students' health and well-being can be better supported to reduce drop-out rates and ease hardship – including consideration of how students are supported over the summer months.
- We will keep the education maintenance allowance to help more under 19s from low income families stay in full time education; we will maintain grants and bursaries for the poorest students, strengthen financial and practical support for disabled students and introduce a support package for eligible postgraduate students on key courses; and we will consider what more we can do with new welfare powers to support vulnerable young people and the poorest students.

the annual shortfall they are experiencing and make sure more students can access courses.

- We will review the position of carers attending colleges to make sure they have the support and flexibility they need.
- No tuition fees for students.
- Support diverse technologies for renewable energy, including research into hydrogen technology and energy storage at Scottish universities together with support for solar, micro-hydro, bio-energy and anaerobic digestion;



<p>Education - Higher</p>	<p>Universities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Young people who have experience of care, will be offered a place at University and be supported by a full bursary of £7625 from 2017/18. •We will continue to provide support to Syrians who have arrived in Scotland through the Resettlement Programme and who wish to take up college or University Courses. We will also examine a change in the rule on providing support for students who are seeking asylum or refugee status, including enabling them to qualify for free tuition. •We will protect free education. there will be no tuition fees as long as the SNP is in government. We will not introduce front door tuition fees nor back door graduate taxes •We will set ambitious new targets that will ensure that by 2030, students from the 20 per cent most deprived areas make up 20 per cent of Higher Education entrants. •We will implement the recommendations of the Widening Access Commission and appoint a Commissioner for Fair Access. •We will guarantee a place at university for all care leavers who meet basic entry requirements and support them with a full bursary. •We will maintain at least 116,000 full-time equivalent college places each year, and make it easier for young people to progress from college to university. •We will implement the recommendations for the Scottish Government and its agencies from the Widening Access Commission's "Blueprint for Fairness" so every child, no matter their background, has an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will provide £30 million of new bursaries and support for students in higher and further education. •This will be used to meet the recommendation from the Commission on Widening Access for the new Commissioner for Fair Access to determine what level of individual bursary support is needed to attract students from poorer backgrounds to higher education. •We will also give young people leaving care a full non-repayable bursary to support their studies and widen access, as recommended by the commission, and take forward the other recommendations to give all people in our society the opportunity to succeed. •We will raise the threshold for repaying student loans from £17,495 to £21,000, cutting the monthly payments for graduates. •No tuition fees for students. We will continue to support high levels of investment in Scottish universities and protect their autonomy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion science funding and support Scottish universities to continue to secure high levels of UK science funding; • Support more women entering science, technology, engineering and maths, taking seriously the report of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Athena Sw an initiative; • Use Scotland International and the Global Scots network to create a special programme for young women potentially interested in a career in science, using inspiring women scientists from around the world; • Keep pressure on the UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •EU domiciled students won't pay for their undergraduate degree and all students to be entitled to a non-repayable living grant. •Oppose 'marketisation' of higher education and enable universities to distance themselves from mechanisms such as the Research Excellence Framework, Teaching Excellence Framework and other artificially competitive funding mechanisms, to concentrate on teaching and research. •Funding parity for college and university students. Further detail on this includes supporting the National Union of Students' Scotland's Shaping Scotland's Future campaign, including calls for financial support to increase with inflation, a benefits system that does not claw back student support payments and improved services for students experiencing mental ill-health. • Student Support during Summer Months through student options to access a national hardship fund to help prevent students dropping out of education between academic years, or to rebalance their bursary and extend their loan payments to stretch over the summer months. • Widening access: Green MSPs will support action to break down the barriers to further and higher education. Scottish Greens' student support proposals are designed to remove financial barriers to education and we agree with the Commission on Widening Access that "inequality in higher education is unfair, damaging and unsustainable". We will use its findings and recommendations published in March to ensure action on access to education is as bold as it can be. -Continue to place pressure on the UK government to reintroduce the post-study work visa – a scheme that allows international students to stay in Scotland after their studies. We believe that someone who has chosen to study here should be given the opportunity to stay in Scotland and contribute to their chosen
---------------------------	---------------------	---	---	---

equal chance of going to university. By 2030, we want 20 per cent of students entering university to be from Scotland's 20 per cent most deprived backgrounds. We will appoint a Commissioner for Fair Access to report and advise on access. And we will guarantee a university place for every care experienced young person meeting the entry requirements and provide them with a full bursary.

- We will develop and implement a new compact for universities that captures our shared vision for education and the economy, and sets out shared priorities for action.
- We will maintain the minimum student income guarantee and work to increase the bursary element of it. But student funding is complex and varies between colleges and universities. We will review support so that funding follows individual students rather than places of study.
- We will explore how students' health and well-being can be better supported to reduce drop-out rates and ease hardship – including consideration of how students are supported over the summer months.
- We will maintain grants and bursaries for the poorest students, strengthen financial and practical support for disabled students and introduce a support package for eligible postgraduate students on key courses; and we will consider what more we can do with new welfare powers to support vulnerable young people and the poorest students.
- In the next Parliament, we will reform this so that graduates do not start to repay loan debt until they are earning

Government to allow overseas graduates to continue making a contribution in Scotland, to fill skills gaps and benefit our economy;

- Establish a Science & Technology Committee of the Scottish Parliament to raise the profile of science;
- Respect the role of the Chief Scientific Adviser and recruit to fill a vacancy promptly;
- Establish a scientific basis for GM crop policy, using the available evidence on safety, biodiversity and the effectiveness of individual GM technologies before taking decisions

field.

		<p>£22,000 and we will reduce the repayment period to 30 years. This will save graduates currently earning below the new threshold at least £180 per year.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

<p>Education - Looked After Children</p>	<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will work towards every professional working with children being trained on equality, to enable them to address prejudice-based bullying, attachment, child development and child protection. Some children continue to need our support more than others. We will invest in services to support families whose children are at risk of moving into care. We will implement our Looked After Children strategy and do more to provide support for children who are looked after at home. •We will continue to provide practical and financial support for kinship and foster care families, and introduce a new national allowance for kinship care and foster care. We will continue to invest in services and projects which support children affected by parental substance misuse and/or who are at risk from behaviours and activity which compromise their well-being. And we will invest in activity to make the process of finding safe, secure and permanent homes for children who cannot go back to live with their parents quicker, more effective and efficient, requiring local authorities to use the National Adoption Register. •More needs to be done to support young people who have been in care during their childhoods so that when they reach early adulthood, they receive the same support, choices and chances as other young people. We will therefore listen to their experiences to ensure that young people have the aftercare support they need and can return to care as young adults if need be. •We will guarantee a place at university 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the rights of people in the care home system to cover matters such as access to the outdoors, the use of covert medication and the provision of meaningful activities, and extend help for people with special educational needs to access the services they need •We will take steps to help young people who have been in the care of local authorities. We will make sure that local authorities accept their responsibilities as 'corporate parents' to those in care and make sure they settle young people leaving care in good quality housing and decent education, training or employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Involve young people in care in planning the support they need •All young people should have a planned, supported transition out of the care system, be supported in education and have a right to return to care if needed. •Support ways to provide financial support to kinship care families at the beginning of a placement. •Parity of support, based on need, for all care leavers
--	----------------	--	---	---

		for all care leavers who meet basic entry requirements and support them with a full bursary.		
--	--	--	--	--

Education - Looked After Children	Named Person Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will roll out Getting It Right for Every Child so the services and professionals that work with children every day can better support children with particular needs or concerns. We will also support the implementation of the Named Person service from August this year.•We have gone further than any previous administration to address the issue of child sexual abuse. We will implement our Action Plan aimed at eliminating child sexual exploitation and take forward measures to Stop and Listen to children, equipping professionals and agencies with the skills they need to identify and take appropriate action when children tell of being sexually abused.•We will also lead work to improve the child protection system, including reviewing the law to ensure it provides adequate protection against all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Keep the named person legislation under review to ensure no local authorities exceed the expectation of the legislation.•We will consult on changes to family law to enhance contact rights of fathers and other family members with children.	
-----------------------------------	--------------------------	--	--	--

<p>Education - Pre-School</p>	<p>Early Learning & Childcare Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •By 2021, we will almost double the amount of fully funded, high quality and flexible early years education – for all 3 and 4 year olds and our most vulnerable 2 year olds – from 16 hours a week to 30 hours a week – a policy that will save families over £3,000 per child per year. •To deliver this expansion, we will invest an additional £500 million a year by 2021 and create 600 new early learning and childcare centres, with 20,000 more qualified staff. •We will ensure that every child in early education in the most deprived communities has access to an additional teacher or childcare graduate by 2018. •We will recruit an extra 500 health visitors by 2018 and work to ensure that every child benefits from a health development check at 30 months. •We will develop and implement a new Strategy for Families with Disabled Children so they get the right support at the right time and in the right way, from birth to adulthood. •We will also pilot a range of different childcare approaches to determine what works best for children and families, with a view to rolling out best practice around the country to improve the availability of high quality and flexible childcare. •We will create a new quality standard and induction programme for child-minders to deliver best practice in the profession. And we will work with partners to encourage more child-minders in communities where currently there are very few. As part of the expansion to 30 hours, we will also provide free lunches for all 2, 3 and 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will take forward Scottish Government plans to double provision for three and four-year-olds to 1140 hours by the end of the parliamentary term, and use our additional investment to increase flexibility for parents. •We will extend entitlement to all 2-year-olds and take new steps to give extra support to the most vulnerable families from an earlier age, working with health visitors. We will support nurseries to work with parents to improve their skills. •As we expand provision we expect to be able to offer additional access to a graduate-qualified professional, and free meals for all children. <p>As we invest to support the expansion of early learning we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incorporate the findings of the independent Commission for Childcare Reform which puts a priority on ensuring it is high quality, flexible and extends beyond the school day if parents need it to be 'wraparound'; ● Make sure the new long-term plan addresses the immediate problems many parents have in getting access to their current entitlement for free provision; ● Give local authorities statutory responsibility for mapping the provision of childcare in their areas in order to give a clear picture to parents; ● Use our increased investment in colleges to help train more qualified staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Childcare and nursery from eight months. •Deliver meaningful access to a GTCS qualified teacher in every nursery and 20 hours early-years education per week
-------------------------------	---	--	---	--

year olds in early education, whether provided by the local authority or a partner provider.

- We will also encourage all early learning and childcare providers to give children two hours of age-appropriate physical activity, including one hour a week outside.
- We will continue to provide families with books, materials, advice and support through Bookbug and Play Talk Read, and support activity to reach families in our most deprived communities. We will help more parents to take up more of their parental leave entitlement during children's pre-school years.
- Children (Scotland) Act 1995, we recognise that this legislation is now over 20 years old and the shape of families has changed considerably in that time. We will review the legislation to ensure the interests of children and their need to form and maintain relationships with key adults in their lives – parents, step-parents, grandparents and other family members – are at the heart of any new statutory measures.

Education - Pre-School	Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will ensure that every child in early education in the most deprived communities has access to an additional teacher or childcare graduate by 2018.•To deliver this expansion, we will invest an additional £500 million a year by 2021 and create 600 new early learning and childcare centres, with 20,000 more qualified staff.		
---------------------------	----------	---	--	--

<p>Education - Schools</p>	<p>Meals/Child's Health & Well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Extend free meals to two, three and four year-olds in nurseries. •We expect all new guidance and promoted teachers - and eventually all teachers - to undertake training on equality, so they are confident in tackling prejudice-based bullying. We will provide additional funding where required. •We will revisit our health and nutrition legislative framework for school meals to ensure that our children have more access to health, Scottish produce both within and outside the school gates. •We will develop and implement a new Strategy for Families with Disabled Children so they get the right support at the right time and in the right way, from birth to adulthood. •As part of the expansion to 30 hours, we will also provide free lunches for all 2, 3 and 4 year olds in early education, whether provided by the local authority or a partner provider. •Building on the successful delivery of two hours of PE for children at school, we will also encourage all early learning and childcare providers to give children two hours of age-appropriate physical activity, including one hour a week outside •Play is fundamental to children's learning, helping them to develop relationships, social skills and supporting their health and well-being. We have already invested in activities, facilities and delivery of our Play Strategy. We will work with stakeholders to do more, particularly to ensure that communities have places and green spaces where children can play safely outside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to offer free school meals for children in P1 to P3 and consider extending flexibility so that a free breakfast can be available instead of lunch. • Incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law by primary legislation in the Scottish Parliament and encourage the same in the UK Parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support LAs to provide free fruit, practical food education and work towards free school meals for all primary pupils. -Will show leadership on inclusive education policies for all pupils and families from primary age regardless of race, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, including a strong stance on bullying. -All schools become UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools, where children's human rights are embedded in a school's ethos and culture to help all pupils realise their potential. -Support the Time for Inclusive Education campaign, which promotes inclusive LGBT+ school environments. We will also push to strengthen links between education and other children's services with child poverty strategies. -Funding training for teachers so that they are able to tackle diversity issues in the classroom. -Strongly oppose any repeal of the Human Rights Act, advocate for a Bill of Rights to safeguard our civil liberties, and support the incorporation of international treaties into Scots law. We also want all schools to achieve UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award, where children's human rights are embedded in a school's ethos and culture.
----------------------------	--	--	---	---

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will refresh our internet safety action plan, linking it to our strategy on digital participation, so that appropriate frameworks of training, support and information are in place for professionals and families, including children and young people.•We will implement our Action Plan aimed at eliminating child sexual exploitation and take forward measures to Stop and Listen to children, equipping professionals and agencies with the skills they need to identify and take appropriate action when children tell of being sexually abused.•We will also lead work to improve the child protection system, including reviewing the law to ensure it provides adequate protection against all forms of abuse, neglect, violence and harm.•We will promote healthy relationships and anti-bullying through refreshed, age-appropriate strategies and resources. We will also work with the Time for Inclusive Education campaign to promote an inclusive approach to sex and relationships education.		
--	--	--	--	--

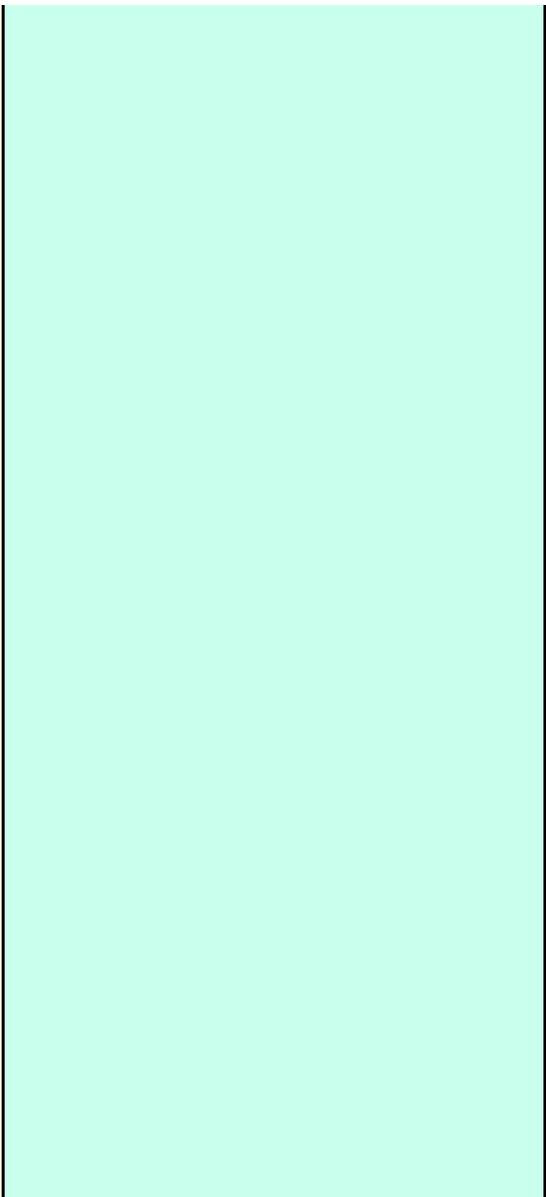
Education - Schools	Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh the Youth Music Initiative, provide support to young musicians and ensure that all young people have the opportunity to play an instrument by the team they leave school. • We will also continue to support the delivery of the 'Scotland's Enterprising Schools' project to enable all schools to develop a values-based entrepreneurial culture amongst Scotland's young people. • A new skills qualification that recognises the achievement of a wide range of vocational and other qualifications taken by young people in senior school. • By 2020 every Scottish school is working with a stem partner from the private, public or third sectors. • We will implement the new National Improvement Framework and introduce national standardised assessments in primaries 1, 4 and 7 and s3. These will inform teacher judgment and provide better information to parents about how their children are progressing. • We will oversee a revolution in transparency about school performance. We will publish information – school by school – on how many children are meeting the required levels of Curriculum for Excellence. This will allow us to measure the attainment gap and set precise targets for closing it. Our mission is to make significant progress in closing the gap within the next parliament and to substantially eliminate it within a decade. • We will continue to provide families with books, materials, advice and support through Bookbug and Play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will stop the introduction of standardised national tests. • Bring innovation to the curriculum with a new initiative to commission Scottish universities to extend their massive open online courses (MOOCs) • Help schools develop links with local businesses, colleges and universities, echoing the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce which expressed concern that only one third of Scottish businesses have meaningful engagement with schools. • Refresh the enterprise in education programme to help every pupil experience entrepreneurialism and creativity; • Make sure there is time in the curriculum for good citizenship, including the basics of financial education, practical life skills such as first aid training and a strong commitment to diversity and anti-bullying, including a new initiative to tackle homophobic bullying; • Give schools, working with parents, the freedom to develop specialisms; • Allow local authorities to transform P1 in primary schools to a more informal learning environment. If they chose, this would, in effect, move the entry age to more formal education to six years old, in line with good practice across the world; children would remain in nursery-style provision gaining social skills and vocabulary for one year longer; • Work with employers to assess the skills needed by each business sector and increase the delivery of industry-recognised vocational qualifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School curriculum to be broader. Literacy and numeracy to sit alongside creative and interpersonal skills, creative skills, confidence, as well as PE and good mental health. • Introduce a 'Scotland Guarantee' which would give every school leave education, training or a job. • Greens MSPs will work with local authorities to provide quality sport and physical activity throughout the curriculum. The majority of children should leave school able to run, jump, throw, catch and swim, with teachers supported to deliver a physical education open to young people of all physical abilities. • Closing the Attainment Gap: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory hours of education 27.5 hours a week of education during Secondary and 25 hours during Primary will help avoid cuts that ultimately harm children's education.. • Oppose more testing by resisting a return to nationalized standard tests in schools. -Support a curriculum that gives students experience in global citizenship, environmental awareness, and their rights and responsibilities as Scottish citizens. -All schools should provide robust 'relationship, sexual health and parenthood' education, covering the principles of equality, consent, signs of abuse and the full spectrum of gender and sexuality. -Curriculum should also reflect modern industries, such as computer programming, bioscience, the creative industries and technological innovation. -Campaign for better opportunities for all young people leaving school. -Call for transferable digital skills to be taught in schools and for businesses to better engage with the education sector on the issue • Schools to provide a wider variety of sport, and allow girls to choose gender segregated PE classes and a wider range of PE kit
---------------------	------------	--	--	--

Talk Read, and support activity to reach families in our most deprived communities. We will help more parents to take up more of their parental leave entitlement during children's pre-school years. Ensuring educational excellence for all and closing the gap in attainment between young people from our most and least deprived communities will be the defining mission of the SNP in the next parliament.

- We will use information generated through the new National Improvement Framework to set clear, specific and meaningful milestones, with a view to delivering significant progress in closing the attainment gap within the lifetime of the next parliament and substantially eliminating it within a decade.
- We will develop a fair and transparent funding formula for schools, to ensure that resources go where they are needed most.
- Our Attainment Challenge – backed by the Attainment Fund – focusses on the key issues of literacy, numeracy, health and well-being. We will continue to target support to over 300 primary schools in our communities – however, we will also expand the Challenge to involve more local authorities with significant levels of deprivation and extend it to cover secondary schools in those areas. A key focus will be on better supporting young people to make the transition from primary to secondary school.
- And in every part of Scotland, we will continue with Read, Write, Count, so every P1 to P3 child has access to books and materials to improve literacy

alongside academic qualifications to meet that need;

- Invest in language assistants and work with the British Council to increase the number of foreign language assistants available to work in Scottish schools;



and numeracy. We will Make Maths Count through measures to ensure that more children succeed at maths, particularly in achieving qualifications, and are encouraged to seek related further and higher education, training and job opportunities.

- Libraries have a vital role to play in developing literacy, supporting attainment and encouraging people of all ages to develop and maintain a love of reading.

We will continue to invest in the National Libraries Strategy, including initiatives like coding clubs and WWI history projects and we will ensure that every child in Scotland receives a library membership.

- We will also roll out the First Minister's Reading Challenge to all P4 to P7 children – and eventually to all children and young people – so that more young people are encouraged to enjoy reading for fun. In moving from implementing to delivering Curriculum for Excellence, we will continue to ensure that children get the broad general education they need to succeed.

- We will maintain the current 2 hours of PE in primary school and 2 periods of PE in S1 to S4. We will continue rolling out the 1+2 languages model in primary schools so that all children benefit by 2021.

- We will also implement new legal duties and rights to support Gaelic Medium Education as part of our ongoing commitment to stabilise and increase the number of Gaelic speakers.

- We will encourage greater external involvement in key aspects of learning,

such as enterprise, STEM, personal and social development and vocational qualifications. We will promote healthy relationships and anti-bullying through refreshed, age-appropriate strategies and resources. We will also work with the Time for Inclusive Education campaign to promote an inclusive approach to sex and relationships education.

- We will also focus on embedding Curriculum for Excellence across S1 to S3 and ensure that assessment is proportionate and appropriate from S3 onwards. Our digital learning and teaching strategy will give all children appropriate time and activity to develop digital skills.
- We will go further by reviewing education provision for all 16 to 24 year olds so their learning journey is as effective and efficient as possible and provides more stepping stones to success for those needing most support.
- We will continue to invest in our vocational education strategy, Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, creating better links between schools, skills and the world of work. Our STEM strategy will offer young people qualifications, knowledge and training in key economic sectors with known skills gaps like engineering, digital technology, science, life sciences and construction.

<p>Education - Schools</p>	<p>Funding</p>	<p>•We will deliver £750 million in additional investment through the extended Scottish Attainment Fund, including £500 million raised from local tax reforms delivered direct to schools.</p> <p>•We will establish a fair and transparent needs-based funding formula for schools and make sure that more money goes direct to head teachers.</p> <p>•We will protect the Educational Maintenance Allowance to help young people stay on at school or college.</p> <p>•As well as investing £50 million each year in our established area-based approach to raising attainment, we will allocate the additional £100 million that will be raised each year from our local tax reforms directly to schools. The allocation will be based on the numbers of children in each school who meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals and head teachers will have the freedom to invest the extra resources in the ways they consider will have the biggest impact on raising attainment in their school – for example, additional teachers, classroom assistants, equipment, out of school activities or home link workers.</p> <p>•We will also expand our Attainment Fund and invest an additional £750 million in the next Parliament to close the gap in educational attainment.</p> <p>•Ensuring educational excellence for all and closing the gap in attainment between young people from our most and least deprived communities will be the defining mission of the SNP in the next parliament. To support the delivery of this, we will develop a fair and transparent funding formula for</p>	<p>•Our commitment to a Penny for Education will pay for our commitments on early years education, the Pupil Premium and colleges and students. The Penny for Education will also be used to end local authority cuts to education services wherever possible.</p> <p>•£170m would go on the pupil premium. Primary schools would get £1400 for every pupil who needs extra support, with secondary schools receiving £900 for every child from a deprived background. It will be paid directly to schools and used by teachers based on their professional judgement. The Pupil Premium will also be available for every looked-after child and the children of serving personnel in the armed forces. Examples of the effective use of the Pupil Premium are additional support teachers, one-to-one tuition, extra equipment and homework clubs. All children in the class get the wider benefit.</p> <p>•Raise half a billion pounds extra every year for education from a 1p increase in income tax across all bands.</p> <p>•This will raise £505 million in 2017-18 and £520 million the year after, according to the latest estimate from HMRC.</p> <p>The money provided will have a transformative impact on education in Scotland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expansion of early education; • A Scottish Pupil Premium to give extra support in every classroom; • Build back up the role of colleges; • Reversing the cuts to councils. 	<p>•Work with other parties to close the gap with funding that targets pupils in need who do not qualify for the Attainment Scotland Fund.</p> <p>-Funding training for teachers so that they are able to tackle diversity issues in the classroom.</p> <p>•Additional 4,000 full-time equivalent extra teachers over the course of the next Parliament</p> <p>-With an innovative curriculum, greater financial support and increased teaching capacity, we believe we can nurture the skills needed for Scotland's society and economy</p>
----------------------------	----------------	---	---	--

		<p>schools, to ensure that resources go where they are needed most.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•In the next Parliament, we will bring forward new proposals to build upon the success of Our Schools for the Future programme which rebuilt or refurbished 607 schools – almost a quarter of the school estate – between 2007 and 2015. We will also work to ensure that our schools are sustainably built, refurbished and maintained and are world-leading in energy efficiency		
--	--	--	--	--

<p>Education - Schools</p>	<p>Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will give head teachers, parents and communities more responsibility for schools in their area, allowing them to take decisions within a strong national policy and inspection framework, and encourage them to work together in clusters where appropriate. •We will review school governance to consider how parents, colleges, universities and local employers can better support efforts to raise attainment and ensure that young people progress into positive destinations. •We will extend to individual schools responsibilities that currently sit solely with local authorities, allocate more resources directly to head teachers and enable them to take decisions based on local circumstances. We will encourage school clusters and create new educational regions to decentralise management and support. •We will review school governance with a view to ensuring that parents, families and communities play a bigger role in their children's education and in the life of their children's school. •The National Improvement Framework will support schools with more consistent and reliable information at local, regional and national level and introducing standardised assessment from 2017 will help parents and teachers chart children's progress at P1, P4, P7 and S3. •A new National Standards and Evaluation Framework will make clear what every school and local authority is expected to deliver to raise attainment and offer guidance on how they can measure their own activity. We will also 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Teachers will benefit from the new professional freedoms to be enshrined in our Public Service Leadership and Empowerment Act 	
----------------------------	-------------------	--	--	--

ensure that school inspections are more focused and frequent.

<p>Education - Schools</p>	<p>Staffing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will ensure all children get enough time at school and in class with highly qualified and motivated teaching and support staff. •We will maintain teacher numbers and continue to invest in teachers and head teachers. We will ensure that all our teachers are confident in teaching literacy and numeracy and we will continue to support the Masters qualification for headship. •We will use both traditional and innovative recruitment methods to address particular subject and local shortages and develop new routes into teaching to help attract the brightest and best graduates to train to be a teacher. We will also expect all new, guidance and promoted teachers – and eventually all teachers – to undertake training on equality, providing funding where necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Teachers will benefit from the new professional freedoms to be enshrined in our Public Service Leadership and Empowerment Act • Invest in language assistants and work with the British Council to increase the number of foreign language assistants available to work in Scottish schools; • Support the taskforce formed by the seven North East, Highland and Island authorities on teacher recruitment; • Review the number of supply teachers working in Scotland and take steps to improve their terms and conditions to increase numbers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •4000 full-time equivalent extra teachers over the course of the next Parliament to tackle teachers' unsustainable workload. -Calling for Support for Learning to be a promoted post. This would help tackle inequality of outcomes for pupils with additional support needs, while attracting the best teachers. It would also help restore a career structure for teachers, enabling progression for the most skilled teachers who wish to remain in the classroom.
----------------------------	-----------------	---	---	--

Energy	Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will work with our independent advisers, the UK Committee on Climate Change, to bring forward plans for a new Bill. •we will also explore the possibility of bringing a future meeting of the annual UN climate talks to Scotland. •We established Scotland's Climate Justice Fund and have spent £6 million to date to help some of the world's poorest communities adapt to the challenges of climate change. •We will increase the Climate Justice Fund to at least £3 million a year for the next five years. •We will also continue our support for the Central Scotland Green Network. •We will share our expertise and provide help in kind to the Government of Malawi to help them design their renewable energy strategy, deliver green growth and extend access to electricity. •We will take forward the actions set out in 'Cleaner Air for Scotland' – Scotland's first distinct air quality strategy – to further reduce air pollution, with the first low emission zone put in place by the end of 2018. We will introduce a new Climate Change Act, with an ambitious new target of reducing emissions by more than 50% by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Retain Air Passenger Duty, with the present lifeline exemptions, given the climate change risks of unlimited expansion in aviation; •Take forward the Cleaner Air For Scotland strategy and, as a matter of urgency, support weekly monitoring and enforcement action at the ten worst streets for pollution in Scotland to reduce the number of high-polluting vehicles on these roads. •We will continue the work of Scotland's Climate Justice Fund to support international action against climate change. •We will beat Scotland's climate change targets by developing bolder plans in addition to the existing plans. Scottish Liberal Democrats will give a priority to warm homes, renewable heat, low-carbon transport as well as continued support for renewable electricity generation and a move away from high-polluting fossil fuels with action to cut carbon emissions from industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Our MSPs will demand Holyrood takes bold and innovative measures to reduce and adapt to climate change. -Climate-ready neighbourhoods. We will support the transition to 'climate-ready' neighbourhoods that reduce emissions, limit flood risks, and increase resilience to extreme conditions through an expansion to the Climate Challenge Fund. This includes designing more permeable paved surfaces, increasing greenspace and shade over, retrofitted buildings, as well as better active travel facilities. We will call for the expansion of the Climate Challenge Fund to move beyond mitigation efforts and provide funding for community adaptation projects. -Holyrood currently spends only 50% of its infrastructure budget on low carbon projects. Increasing this investment will drive innovation and skills development, while delivering environmental benefit and making behaviour change possible. We will call for a greater portion of Holyrood's infrastructure budget to be spent on low carbon projects. -The Scottish Greens will hold the Scottish and UK Governments to account to ensure they meet their pledges in accordance with the 2015 Paris Agreement.
--------	----------------	---	--	--

Energy	Fracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Will not allow fracking in Scotland if scientific evidence suggests it harms the environment.•A moratorium on unconventional oil and gas and underground coal gasification We are deeply sceptical about fracking and have ensured that no fracking can take place in Scotland by putting in place a moratorium. We have also put in place a very thorough research process and plans for a public consultation so that any decision is based on both evidence and public opinion. Unless it can be proven beyond any doubt that there is no risk to health, communities or the environment, there will be no fracking or UCG extraction in Scotland.	Ban fracking • Not permit fracking or similar unconventional processes;	Ban fracking through the use of planning powers.
--------	----------	---	---	--

Energy	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will convene a summit utility companies to challenge them to do more to provide the best rates available for low income households and reduce the need for prepayment meters which result in the poorest in society paying for the most for their energy. •We will also promote the Our Power social enterprise energy model for councils and housing associations to help keep costs down for social rent tenants. •We will also assess whether smaller and rural businesses are able to compete on an even playing field for energy efficient measures. •The SNP is developing an ambitious and long term Scottish energy strategy which we will implement over the next Parliament and beyond. The strategy will aim to make electricity cleaner, more affordable and more secure for all consumers. The strategy will take a "whole system view" and encompass demand reduction, energy efficiency, a balanced energy generation mix, a role for storage, and the requirement for a low carbon transition in transport and heat use. We will develop creative approaches – for example, we will examine collective switching models and group buying of energy with an emphasis on those off-grid. As part of our work with stakeholders to develop the strategy we will seriously and carefully consider the proposal from industry body Scottish Renewables for Scotland to set a target of 50 per cent of all energy to come from renewables by 2030. In developing the strategy, we will undertake fresh analysis and full consideration of electricity generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign for the principle of a universal service obligation to be extended to energy prices, broadband, postal charges and telecoms to prevent the price discrimination against remote communities; 	
--------	---------	---	--	--

options, drawing on expert opinion, including from the Scottish Energy Advisory Board.

- We will continue to work with all stakeholders to examine what can be done to revitalise the future of CCS in Scotland.
- We recognise that a new CCS fitted gas power station can provide backup and base load and we will press for removal of the transmission charging regime which is a block on investment.

Energy	Home Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will tackle fuel poverty by improving energy efficiency, starting with an investment of £103 million in 2016-17 to deliver improvements for 14,000 more homes. We will prioritise the development of the district heating system and establish a loan fund for this purpose. •We will work with the stakeholders to review the fuel poverty action plan, including the fuel poverty eradication target. •We will raise the profile of fuel poverty schemes that are available and include them in our benefit take up campaign. •We will ensure Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) fuel poverty measures are targeting those people living in poverty and examine how we can use new flexibilities over the Warm Homes Discount and ECO to help with these aims. •We will consult on the best way to help owner occupied houses reach energy efficient standards through a mix of grants and low cost loans. We will also consult on regulating energy efficiency in the private rented sector to ensure tenants are getting the best value for the money they spend on bills. •We will introduce a Warm Houses Bill in the next parliament to support our work to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improving the energy efficiency of homes to become a national infrastructure project •We will create catch up zones to tackle fuel poverty in remote and island areas which have fallen behind in getting homes insulated and warm. •We will introduce new building standards for greater energy efficiency and restart the review of standards that was cancelled by the SG in Sept 2015. This ambition will be incorporated into a Warm Homes Act to secure the growth district heating and renewable heat. It will be backed up by new resources for house holders and business from our Fit for the Future investment plan. •We will also use new powers to shape the Energy Company Obligation to combine support from power companies and the SG to provide bigger warm home grants for home owners and tenants •We will put the focus on renewable heat, adopting the first ever industrial heat strategy, promoting combined heat and power, using waste heat more effectively and developing geothermal heat from disused coalmines. •To support renewable heat we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take forward the recommendations of the Expert Commission on District Heating; • Support an expansion of anaerobic digestion – the technology that processes organic waste and creates heat energy for local needs – through a suitable planning framework and potential increased support from the Green Investment Bank; • Expand into the public sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Investment in the domestic energy storage system •New Build and Retrofitting Standards: call for high efficiency standards to deliver net zero carbon new buildings by 2030, and will push for the rate of retrofitting to be accelerated to ensure that all existing properties also achieve Band C by 2025. •Push for all homes to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate of Band C by 2025 and support the introduction of minimum energy efficiency standards at the point of sale or rent •Support for combined heat and power (CHP) systems: to meet our target of 50% of all our energy use from renewables by 2030, we must move to generating more renewable heat. We believe that increased opportunities for CHP systems, including district heating, should be prioritised, particularly in new housing developments and new public buildings •Taking a whole-house approach: the Scottish Greens call for coordinating action to deliver a whole-house approach to energy efficiency and usage, bringing together insulation schemes with fuel poverty programs and area-based energy advice schemes to help keep homes warm into the future.
--------	------------------------	---	---	--

demand management technologies to reduce overall energy consumption;

- We will give powers to local authorities to create a Municipal Energy Strategy to help them support, through planning and investment, the development of renewable heat networks.

To support warmer homes we will:

- Phase in a new regulation to make sure all newly-let properties achieve energy rating C, in order to reflect that landlords have the capital asset and resources to make the investment, whereas tenants do not;
- Make sure new social housing incorporates renewable energy systems as a condition of funding support from public money;
- Use the new power for the Scottish Parliament to hold OFGEM to account, to press for new governance arrangements for renewable heat to make sure people connected to renewable heat networks get a good deal;
- Encourage local authorities to use their extended powers of competence and their Municipal Energy Strategy to investigate using their own renewable energy generation to provide low tariffs for those in fuel poverty;
- Incorporate these ambitions into a Warm Homes Act to secure the growth of district heating and renewable heat, and help to improve the energy efficiency of buildings

•Our proposals for warm homes, and support for businesses on renewable heat and energy efficiency will use the Fit For The Future Investment Fund drawn largely from the increased borrowing powers under the Scotland

			Act.	
--	--	--	------	--

Energy	Nuclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Oppose plans to waste at least £167 bn on a new Trident nuclear weapons system.•We will maintain a ban on the creation of new nuclear power stations due to their excessive cost. We will continue to support the workforce of Scotland's existing nuclear plants at Torness and Hunterston to generate electricity for as long as the plants are safe to do so.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Campaign for a nuclear free world: continue to support nuclear disarmament on an international scale.•Remove trident from the Clyde. We would explore options such as issuing guidance to Police Scotland not to enforce charges against nonviolent activists involved in protests against the Faslane Base and shipments of nuclear weapons on Scottish roads, amending the Marine Scotland Act to include a ban on the movement of nuclear weapons through Scottish waters and ending government support for businesses involved in the supply chain for Trident.
--------	---------	--	--	---

Energy	Off-shore Oil	<p>We have also set up a £12 million Transition Training Fund to help oil workers retrain to get jobs in other sector, including renewables sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will press for tax measures to improve exploration and investment, and we will work to avoid premature cessation of production whilst taken steps to ensure that Scottish businesses benefit from decommissioning when it takes place. 		<p>Believe Scotland must begin the transition to a sustainable green economy, one that prioritises fair pay and investment in low-carbon industry, and which breaks from the economics of austerity.</p> <p>With skills in sub-sea engineering concentrated in Aberdeen we have an opportunity to excel in offshore wind, tidal and wave energy</p> <p>Oppose ship-to-ship oil transfers.</p>
Energy	Open-Cast Coal Mining		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •End open-cast coal mining, given the devastating damage done to landscapes with little prospect of restoration; 	

Energy	Renewables	<p>We have also set up a £12 million Transition Training Fund to help oil workers retrain to get jobs in other sectors, including renewables sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target of 50 per cent of all energy to come from renewables by 2030. • 100 percent of Scotland's electricity needs will come from renewables by 2020 • We will continue to support new wave energy technology through Wave Energy Scotland and the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney. • We will work with Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to further develop the use of expertise from the oil and gas sector in developing renewable energy. • we will also continue to promote biomass as a good use of our forestry products for energy. • We will also explore the creation of a Scottish Renewable Energy Bond in order to allow savers to invest in and support Scotland's renewable energy sector. • We are working with Scotland's Islands communities to ensure they can release their huge renewable energy potential. • We will continue to press the UK Government to progress the necessary EU permissions and bring forward a viable package of support that will facilitate the vital grid connections to the Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles. • We will ensure that by 2020, at least half of newly consented renewable energy projects will have an element of shared ownership. And we will argue for Scottish control of our share of feed-in tariffs to help promote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on renewable heat, adopting the first ever industrial heat strategy, promoting combined heat and power, using waste heat more effectively and developing geothermal heat from disused coalmines. • We'll boost investment in renewable energy so we reach our goal of 100% renewable energy generation • Start a new programme to help to plan now the very long-term switch from fossil fuel appliances at home and in business towards other forms of energy; • Streamline planning and licensing rules for small-scale hydro power schemes; • Maintain support for the development of carbon capture and storage at Peterhead; • Put a priority in the Renewable Heat Strategy to help Scotland's food and drink businesses move away from fossil fuels, through grants and loans to make use of the waste materials, hydro power and geothermal energy surrounding many of those businesses. • Support diverse technologies for renewable energy, including research into hydrogen technology and energy storage at Scottish universities together with support for solar, micro-hydro, bio-energy and anaerobic digestion; • Make it easier to re-power existing wind farms through changes to planning regulations; • Create a national strategy and prioritise EU funding for floating, offshore wind technology; • Negotiate with the Green Investment Bank to increase support for biomass heating and anaerobic digestion; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirect funding from nuclear power to research and development of renewable technologies. • Make Scotland the Renewable capital of Europe: the exchange of skills and technology would enable the growth of a decarbonised European economy and the establishment of a European super-grid would allow Scotland to export its huge surplus of renewable energy across the continent. • Increase funding for Modern Apprenticeships and science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to enable more young people, particularly young women, to move into renewable energy generation, supply and support. • A Scottish Renewable Energy Bond: Support the introduction of a bond to create capital to finance further development and expansion of renewable energy projects in Scotland. • Resist subsidy cuts Green MSPs will be against further cuts to the UK Government's renewable energy subsidies. <p>Community Energy Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control local energy by establishing socially-owned companies to drive investment in energy efficiency and low-carbon energy, such as combined heat and power (CHP) and micro-renewable systems. • Local authorities to be supported to create municipal utility companies under public control, which deliver clean energy, cheaper heating and the opportunity for profits to be ploughed back into public services. • More community renewable energy generation: look to extend the Scottish Government target for renewable energy capacity to 1GW provided by community renewables and 1GW from locally owned projects by 2030. • Help for communities: support measures to make available greater levels of grants, loans and financial advice for communities setting up new renewable energy schemes and to assist them to connect to the national grid.
--------	------------	---	---	---

community ownership schemes.

- We will give communities the opportunity to use some of their income from renewables to support Scotland's Climate Justice Fund if they wish to do so.
- We will work to support the further growth of community and locally owned renewable energy projects, with new targets of 1 GW of community and locally-owned energy by 2020, and 2 GW by 2030.
- We will explore the potential to create a government owned energy company to help the growth of local and community energy projects. This will include empowering communities to use the income from energy developments to support other communities develop their energy potential.

- Work with OFGEM to develop a strategy for storage of electrical power which cuts costs and puts Scotland at the forefront of the race to develop;
- Introduce permitted rights for air-sourced heat pumps to bring Scottish regulations into line with the rest of the UK;
- Adopt a similar approach to renewable and district heating as in the "London Plan" which requires developers to justify not installing combined heat and power systems in new developments before planning permission can be considered for alternative heat systems;
- Support expansion of the Scottish Government's Community Wind Benefit scheme to make sure that a share of the profits of wind generation are returned to the local community;
- Encourage community ownership of energy generation projects by splitting the existing target for ownership beyond 500MW to make sure the 'community owned' part is substantial, recognising that "local owned" too often only benefits large landowners;
- Challenge the UK Government on their withdrawal of support for renewables.
- Divert the unused money that is earmarked for the Saltire Prize immediately to prevent further companies from withdrawing from the marine renewable sector;

- Support the case for community buy-outs of renewable energy schemes on Scotland's largest estates, and recognize this may need further legislation beyond the current Land Reform proposal.

Environment	Agriculture/Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We now pay £440 million in direct support to Scotland's 18500 farmers and crofters and will pay approximately £3 billion over the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) period. •The next CAP negotiations begin in 2017 and we will fight for it's simplification, a fairer share of the budgets for Scotland, and greater flexibility in how it is delivered. •We will continue to campaign for the UK Government to release the CAP convergence funds to Scottish farmers. •We will continue our work to secure Scotland's fair share of the red meat levy to ensure that the funds raised from Scottish livestock sector go to promoting Scottish produce. •We will continue the less favoured area support scheme. •We will introduce a new entrant's scheme for crofting, explore the creation of a new woodland crofts and publish a national development plan for crofting. •We will also re-introduce the croft house loan scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a scientific basis for GM crop policy, using the available evidence on safety, biodiversity and the effectiveness of individual GM technologies before taking decisions • Expand and enhance Scotland's forestry sector and woodland cover, including an ambitious target to double the area of native woodland by 2050, through steps including restoring degraded woodland, extending management best practice amongst landowners, better links between farming and forestry, enhanced practical protection for ancient woodland, and regular updates of the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland; • Guarantee to increase the resources deployed in advance of the future rounds of CAP payments to make sure farmers get their money in a timely way • Establish an immediate restitution scheme to compensate farmers who incurred excessive banking costs because of the delay in their CAP payment; • Continue to reform procurement rules to encourage purchase of local food and help smaller producers and farmers access large public sector markets; • Press for increased powers for the Grocery Code Adjudicator to allow investigation of unfair practices throughout the supply chain not just from retailer and direct supplier; • End the one-size-fits-all system operated by the Crofting Commission; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The introduction of a food, farming and health act. The act would provide a framework to deliver a range of food policies addressing health, environment and social justice. It would also set a range of targets such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food production; address rising food insecurity amongst Scotland's poorest; establish a statutory commission to monitor progress and report annually to Parliament; incorporate the Right to Food in Scots law, as set out in the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. o Support for farms that provide public benefit: champion a system that supports farmers and is clearly tied to the delivery of public benefits such as rural jobs, water management, biodiversity and carbon sequestration. o Support the development and implementation of a Scottish Organic Action Plan led by the Scottish Organic Forum with targets for increasing organic production. o Promote community food hubs. Localising food system supports local economies. By supporting the promotion of community food hubs across Scotland, bringing farmers and consumers together to shorten food chains. o Support for new farmers: Through the expansion of mentoring schemes and by lobbying for a shift in its New Entrants to Farming programme to support environmentally and economically sustainable farming while our land reform proposals will improve access to suitable land. o Sustainable farming methods: continue to support research on farming methods that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance biodiversity and increase carbon storage. This includes providing alternatives to the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilisers. o Argue for Scotland's ban on genetically-modified crops to remain in force, and will
-------------	---------------------	---	---	---

				<p>continue to campaign for a ban on neonicotinoids to protect wild pollinators and bee populations, and enhance biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Healthy soil support measures to reduce soil erosion, from planting cover crops and strengthening hedgerows to contour ploughing.
--	--	--	--	--

Environment	Animal Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will also take forward a number of other recommendations including greater use of alternative penalties such as forfeiture of equipment used to carry out offences, greater use of impact statements in court to better explain the impact a wildlife crime may have, and •we will also consider the creation of new sentencing guidelines •we will undertake a wildlife crime prevention review and set up a Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit as part of Police Scotland. •We will consider the outcome of Lord Bonomy’s review of Scotland’s hunting with dogs legislation to ensure legislation is providing the necessary level of protection for foxes and other wild mammals while allowing for the effective and humane control of these animals where required. •We will also ban the use of wild animals in circuses in Scotland and conduct a review of pet welfare which will include the issue of electric dog collars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Take stronger action on wildlife crime using the recommendations on prosecution and penalties from the recent review group, together with the proposals from Scottish Environment Link in its report Natural Injustice to tackle failings in reporting and investigation of wildlife crime; •Ensure a prominent role for animal welfare organisations and a proper evidence-based approach when current regulations on snaring are reviewed in December 2016; • Require the current working group on pet welfare to bring its work to an early conclusion to allow for updating of the laws on pet welfare in order to regulate puppy farms and prevent other animal abuses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increase protection for wildlife: protection should be increased to all wildlife not just endangered species. Hunting legislation should be strengthened to ensure no animal is hunted with hounds and snaring would be banned, o Review of animal welfare legislation to ensure high standards are being met. Support the phasing out of the intensive indoor barn rearing of poultry and pigs, using local or mobile abattoirs to reduce the stress of live animal transport and support calls for the introduction of CCTV in abattoirs for better monitoring. o The development of a suite of secondary legislation addressing the trade in exotic pets and the welfare of circus animals and racing greyhounds. o End routine antibiotic use: call for a ban to the routine adding of antibiotics to animal feed, and support clear labelling of, and eventually a ban on, products from animals reared on genetically modified animal feed.
-------------	----------------	--	---	--

Environment	Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support the planting of woodland which can help prevent flooding and assist in water basin management. We will also explore how public sector pension funds can invest in Scotland's forestry and we will increase action on restoration of ancient woodlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support whole river catchment management systems to deliver flood attenuation, including increased levels of tree planting and enhanced wildlife habitats; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Water should remain in public ownership. • Support measures to transition to climate-ready neighbourhoods that reduce emissions, limit flood risks and increase resilience to extreme conditions and the expansion of the Climate Challenge Fund to move beyond mitigation efforts and provide funding for community adaptation. • Effective planning for changing conditions: public sector to take a lead role in planning for unpredictable weather conditions and find cost-effective solutions that support communities and individuals to respond. • Flooding protection: press for increased investment in flood protection, and support measures to reinstate natural flood defences, including reintroducing river meanders and regenerating mudflats and saltmarshes. Increase the resilience of natural coastal defences, such as sand dunes and invest in harbour infrastructure.
-------------	----------	---	--	---

Environment	Land Use & Land Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will implement the regulations provided for in the land reform act to create a thriving tenanted sector. • we will implement the provisions of the Act, including the establishment of a Scottish Land Commission and the publication of a Land Rights and Responsibilities statement. • we will end the practice revealed in the infamous Panama Papers of anonymous ownership of major tracts of Scotland's land by introducing a mandatory, public register of controlling interests in landowners or tenants. • We are committed to a target of 1 million acres of land being in community ownership by 2020. • we will also resource community land purchases through the £10 million Scottish Land Fund. • We will bring forward proposals to modernise and improve powers for compulsory sales orders. • We will also review small landholding legislation. • we will establish Land Scotland, a new land agency for Scotland • We will plant 10,000 hectares of trees every year until 2022 and work to hasten the pace of application and approval of planting. • We will also complete the devolution of the Forestry Commission. • We will continue the programme with a focus on maximising forestry provision to tackle climate emissions and help to restore derelict old mining and industrial land. • We aim to create at least 2,000 acres of woodland on restored land over the next 4 years. • we will support the planting of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will speed up the process to map all of Scotland's land ownership. • Establish new national parks or landscape partnership areas, learning from the first two national parks in Scotland, bringing the benefits of improved management, conservation and tourism to other parts of the country; • Expand and enhance Scotland's forestry sector and woodland cover, including an ambitious target to double the area of native woodland by 2050, through steps including restoring degraded woodland, extending management best practice amongst landowners, better links between farming and forestry, enhanced practical protection for ancient woodland, and regular updates of the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland; • Implement the Land Reform Act and establish a review by the end of the parliamentary term to consider further reform; • Continue the general review of Scottish planning policy and practice to ensure a system of development planning that supports the appropriate delivery of housing and other infrastructure, supports environmental protection and addresses community engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the 1919 Land Resettlement (Scotland) Act to enable communities to buy small holdings community gardens and community-supported agriculture across Scotland through modernising the Land Settlement (Scotland) Act 1919 in time for its centenary. This will also support a shift away from high-input agribusiness to low-carbon, organic farming. • Support Forestry Commission Scotland and other organisations to develop more community green spaces throughout the country, covering woodlands, wetlands and open spaces. • greater democratic control of the National Forest Estate and reform of the Forestry Act 1967 to allow community bodies to become managers of national forests. • New Common Good Act to give communities greater control over common good property in Scotland's towns and cities • Protect greenbelts from further encroachment, which threatens both levels of local biodiversity and communities' identity. Through our land reform proposals we would bring Scotland's 11,000 ha of vacant land back into use for new housing developments and safeguard our open spaces. • New National Parks: possible areas include the Isle of Harris, Galloway and the coastal areas of Mull, Coll and Tiree. • Large scale ecological restoration projects of native flora and fauna will be supported, such as the continued restoration of internationally-important peatlands, coastal machair habitats and the eradication of rhododendron from strategically important sites. • support for compulsory sales orders to enable local councils to make best use of vacant and derelict land
-------------	------------------------	---	---	---

woodland which can help prevent flooding and assist in water basin management. We will also explore how public sector pension funds can invest in Scotland's forestry and we will increase action on restoration of ancient woodlands

- We will ensure the Forestry Commission and NHS work together to protect and extend this scheme and widen its availability.
- We have introduced a ban on wind farms in Scotland's National Parks and National Scenic Areas and increased protection for our wild land areas. This will continue in the next Parliament.
- We will also support research and action on biodiversity protection and habitat restoration and we will undertake a review of the current voluntary deer management arrangements.

Environment	Marine Environment and Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will also work with the industry to phase in the discard ban and we will set up a new entrants scheme for fisherman. •We will push for further decentralisation of the Common Fisheries Policy. •We will also argue for Scotland to chair the EU Fisheries Council in the second half of 2017 when the UK holds the EU presidency. •We will set a Scottish landings target for all Scottish fishing boats to ensure more fish are landed in Scotland to create jobs and support local businesses in our fishing communities. •We will continue to argue for repatriation of the sea fish levy to ensure that levy funds paid by the Scottish industry are used to promote Scottish seafood. •We will update inshore fisheries legislation through an inshore fisheries bill to support sound fisheries management. •we will designate the Half net fishery on the river Annan as a history fishery. •we will introduce a wild fisheries bill to modernise structures and enable better national •We will ensure that Scotland's coastal and island communities get to control and decide how to invest 100 per cent of net revenues raised from Crown Estate marine assets out to 12 nautical miles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Divert the unused money that is earmarked for the Saltire Prize immediately to prevent further companies from withdrawing from the marine renewable sector; • Support community involvement in the management of Marine Protected Areas to ensure local benefits from the new designations; • Ensure that existing powers under the Nature Conservation Act of 2004 and Marine Act of 2010 are used by all government agencies to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity; • Use the Smith Commission recommendation on the use of seafood levies to improve the marketing of Scottish seafood; • Support measures to address the environmental and economic madness of fisheries discards, while recognising the complexity of the problem and engaging the industry fully throughout; • Devolve the functions of the Crown Estate from Edinburgh to local communities to ensure that the benefits of our marine resources are retained as far as possible within the communities reliant on them; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Manage fish stocks by changing quotas from fish tonnage to days at sea. •A moratorium on new salmon farms at sea and a phased withdrawal of existing ones to land. •Work to ensure that the decision-making process takes evidence from marine monitoring into account and support the introduction of blue belt planning legislation which lends similar protection as green belts to these environments. •Oppose ship to ship oil transfers and protect fish stocks. •Support prioritising high-value, low impact fishing methods which support coastal communities and demand a moratorium on new sea-cage salmon farms.
-------------	----------------------------------	---	---	--

Environment	Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •70 per cent of all of Scotland's waste by 2025 and bring an end to municipal biodegradable waste being sent to landfill by 2020. •new target to cut food waste by a third by 2025. •We will give further consideration to proposals for a deposit and return scheme. •We will bring forward a Circular Economy and Zero Waste Bill to build the circular economy, promote recycling and take action to meet our food waste targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan for a circular economy, using recycled materials as an economic resource and supporting a zero waste strategy, including taking forward successful pilot projects on reverse vending machines; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing economy: Promote a circular economy' that moves away from the traditional 'make-use-dispose' approach to products and instead keeps resources in use for as long as possible before recycling them back into supply chains. Introduce a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks bottles where a small deposit paid when buying cans or bottles is refunded when empty containers are returned.
-------------	-----------	---	---	--

<p>Equalities</p>	<p>Age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will provide resources for a new programme of financial health check-ups to help pensioners and those on low incomes make the most of their money and to secure the best energy tariffs and access to bank accounts. •We will publish a Funeral Costs plan to tackle issues relating to the affordability of funerals - this will include the introduction of a funeral bond to help people save for funerals. •We will also use our new powers over Funeral Payments to reach more of those in need, and we will bring together funeral directors, councils and stakeholders to examine ways of reducing funeral costs and encouraging people to better plan for their funeral. •The SNP will continue to argue for a fairer pensions system at Westminster. •The SNP will continue to fully support the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign in their efforts to secure fairness for women affected by the acceleration in the retirement age. •With regard to the introduction of the single-tier pension, we will assess the impact of these changes and the options open to the SG, with a view to providing support to these women when we have the power to do so. This would depend on securing guarantees from the DWP that any additional payment made by the SG would not be clawed back from women in other ways. •We will refresh our Ages, Homes and Community strategy to take account of changing need, demographics and to help address issues of isolation. We will ask LAs to ensure that their local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will establish an expert group to assess if the present system of funeral payments works to provide assurance and dignity to all, and recommend appropriate changes.G60 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Scottish supplement to those not receiving full state pension •Propose a commission to explore how Scotland can develop a more inclusive culture that allows older people to live healthy and independent lives.
-------------------	------------	---	---	--

development plans take into account the increasing need for housing for older people and for disabled people. We will look at extending Housing Association Grant available to councils and housing associations for this purpose.

•We will also consider the introduction of a similar scheme to Help to Buy for new build homes to encourage growth in the retirement housing sector to better meet the need for affordable retirement homes, sheltered, and very sheltered housing.

<p>Equalities</p>	<p>Disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to disability benefits, a re-elected SNP Government would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue the £52m Independent Living Fund o Support disabled people into employment with a £20m fund o We will not means test or cut disability benefits •We will reform assessment procedures to ensure they work for service users and stop the revolving door of assessments and related stress and anxiety for those with long-term illnesses, disabilities or conditions. •We'll also introduce long-term awards for existing long-term conditions that are unlikely to change and ensure people get the right level of award as time goes on. •We'll establish a Disability Benefits Assessment Commission to provide recommendations and guidance on how often assessments should be, what conditions should be given an automatic or lifetime awards, and eligibility criteria. •When disability benefits are transferred, any child in receipt of DLA will be given an automatic award of that DLA to age 18 to allow for continuity for families whilst the transfer of benefits takes place. •We'll extend the eligibility for the Winter Furl Payment to families with children in receipt of the highest care component of DLA. •We will also increase the carer's allowance for those looking after more than one disabled child, to recognise higher costs. •We will abolish the 84 day-rule which currently means that severely ill or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the rights of disabled people by empowering them, supporting individual autonomy and overhauling the guardianship system – including introducing staged-guardianship - through an Adults With Incapacity Act review ; 	<p>-Work to break down the barriers that prevent disabled people from realising their rights. Will take a lead from disabled people's organisations to promote a coproduced Strategy for Inclusion which works towards equal access to resources, fulfilling employment, public services, and participation in politics and public life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All PIP claims to be granted initially, rather than claimants waiting for decisions •Additional evidence for PIP claims to be taken online, over the phone or via paper forms, unless claimant requests face-to-face interview •Review of DLA and PIP to examine the current stoppage of support during hospital stays, the appeals procedure and the PIP points assessment system. •Will push for the devolution and expansion of the Access to work scheme that supports disabled people to start or remain in work.
-------------------	-------------------	---	--	---

disabled children needing more than 84 days in hospitalisation or medical treatment lose both DLA and carer's allowance.

- We will also consult on how people on disability benefits can best access adapted vehicles, aids and appliances.
- We will continue to fund Family Sign Language courses, which help increase communication between deaf children and their hearing parents.
- As part of our new Disability Action Plan we will produce and implement a National Strategy for Young People with Disabilities to improve the outcomes of young disabled people and ensure they are getting the best provision and support possible.
- We will also support the One in Five Campaign to increase the participation of disabled people. We will build on the example of the pilot fund for the 2016 elections and establish a £200,000 Elected Office Fund to provide support for disabled people seeking to stand for selection election in the 2017 local government elections.
- We will continue to work with the sector, with BASE and others using public sector spend, to provide practical help for those businesses employing large numbers of people with a disability, so that they have an opportunity to thrive and prosper.
- For disabled people, or for those who have developed mobility or other disabilities, affordable and accessible housing with support can help them continue to live independent lives, we will provide guidance and timescales for installing adaptations where they are needed.
- We will refresh our Ages, Homes and

		<p>Community strategy to take account of changing need, demographics and to help address issues of isolation. We will ask LAs to ensure that their local development plans take into account the increasing need for housing for older people and for disabled people. We will look at extending Housing Association Grant available to councils and housing associations for this purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will develop and implement a new Strategy for Families with Disabled Children so they get the right support at the right time and in the right way, from birth to adulthood.		
--	--	--	--	--

<p>Equalities</p>	<p>Gender Reassignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will review and reform gender recognition law so it's in line with international best practice for people who are Transgender or Intersex. • We will build on and improve the standalone protocol that's been developed in Scotland for people seeking gender reassignment, which has provided a clearer and consistent treatment pathway that is equitable, effective and patient-focussed. • Pledged to reform gender law by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Recognising that some people have a non-binary gender. They will be able to change their birth certificate to recognise their gender status and use it on official documents such as passports. o Will allow transgender people, who switch from the gender recorded at birth, to change their birth certificates without having to seek approval from a tribunal of lawyers and doctors, as at present. o Will give legal recognition to transgender young people under the age of 18. In future, 16- and 17-year-olds will be able to change their birth certificate with the permission of their parents. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legal duty on local authorities and public institutions to deliver effective services directly to the LGBT+ community. - Back the campaign to reform gender recognition law in line with international best practice. - Support a Gender Equality Bill to drive progress against all forms of gender inequality (LGBT+ people including trans people and those of minority gender identities)
-------------------	----------------------------	--	--	---

<p>Equalities</p>	<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Our commitment to address the underlying economic and social inequalities in our nation is the foundation stone of our actions in government. • We will also seek to use our new powers to establish social and economic rights for Scotland over all matters we have responsibility for. •As soon as we have the powers to do so, we will commence the socio-economic duty contained in the Equalities Act 2010 to require all public bodies to evaluate their policies and against the duty to reduce inequalities. •We expect all new guidance and promoted teachers - and eventually all teachers - to undertake training on equality, so they are confident in tackling prejudice-based bullying. We will provide additional funding where required. •We will work towards every professional working with children being trained on equality, to help address prejudice-based bullying, attachment, child development and child protection. •We will seek to further embed the European Convention on Human Rights in Scotland. •We will invite a cross party group, including civic society, to establish a collaborative process, engaging with people across Scotland and learning from best global practice in participatory democracy, to advise on the guaranteed protections we should seek to enshrine in law. •We will also embed Scotland's National Action Plan on Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals into our National Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a protocol on human rights for Scottish public agencies operating in countries where there is cause for concern •Act to tackle bullying and discrimination. •Enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Scottish law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Work with communities to identify those within groups of those with protected characteristics whose life chances are reduced. •Campaigning for the devolution of equalities law and encourage measures to increase the participation of all groups that are underrepresented in politics and public life, such as the introduction of 50% quotas for women on public boards. We back the One in Five and Women 50:50 campaigns. -Prioritise the goal of equality and work with those whose chances in life are reduced because of class, race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, to develop our plans for an equal Scotland. -The Public Sector Equality Duty and investment in the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in Scotland can help improve equality outcomes across Scotland's public bodies. -Continue to call for the devolution of equalities law. • Strongly oppose any repeal of the Human Rights Act, advocate for a Bill of Rights to safeguard our civil liberties, and support the incorporation of international treaties into Scots law. We also want all schools to achieve UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award, where children's human rights are embedded in a school's ethos and culture. -We will support measures to improve equality impact assessment and budget analysis, which take stock of how decision-making impacts differently on groups protected under equality law. Equality concerns must be embedded in all resource allocation and policy development to ensure public spending reflects Scotland's policy commitments to increase equality.
-------------------	----------------	--	---	--

Framework.

- We will work hard to protect human rights across the UK. We will continue to oppose the repeal of the Human Rights Act and an SNP Government will not consent to its abolition.
- We will always defend trade unionists' rights across the UK by opposing the Trade Union Bill and we will continue to make the case for employment law to be transferred to Scotland. We will work with the STUC and TUs to explore what support can be offered to mitigate the impact of the Bill and help them continue their legitimate activities.
- We want to encourage and make it easier for people from all backgrounds to get involved at all levels of decision making. Our elected representatives should better reflect the society we live in.
- We will continue to oppose UKG plans to repeal the Human Rights Act and refuse to consent to its abolition.
- Embed Scotland's National Act Plan on Human Rights
- For young people who have been in care, we will establish a new fund, based on the example of Community Jobs Scotland, to specifically support them into appropriate work, training or educational opportunities.
- We will work towards every professional working with children being trained on equality, to enable them to address prejudice-based bullying, attachment, child development and child protection.

Equalities	Marriage and Civil Partnership			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will lobby for a government-led review of legislation and services to identify inequalities for LGBT+ couples and people of all non-binary gender identities, and for legislation to make Civil Partnerships open to all couples on an equal basis with marriage.
Equalities	Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will recruit an extra 500 health visitors by 2018 and work to ensure that every child benefits from a health development check at 30 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will start a pilot project to give parents of new-born babies a Finnish-style baby box containing essential items to ensure a healthy baby, proven to cut child mortality rates internationally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Push to grow the network of community-based projects to help parents have the healthiest pregnancy possible and support to raise children. •Fund health visitors and midwives to help families to claim the financial support they're entitled to •Weekly top-up to Child Benefit

Equalities	Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will appoint a new Race Framework Adviser to take forward a range of actions to tackle existing inequalities within our ethnic communities. •We will continue to fund opportunities for post-16 students from every school and college in Scotland to participate in a one-day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau and attend seminars to learn about the Holocaust, as well as hearing testimony from a survivor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Start a project with stakeholder groups to propose new ways to tackle the barriers to fair representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People in senior roles in the police and education services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support full implementation of the Racial Equality Framework for Scotland 2016-2030 in order to tackle pervasive racism across our society. •Will also back a non-permanent commission to tackle gender and racial occupational segregation in the labour market
Equalities	Religion/Belief			

Equalities	Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledged to introduce legislation that will require gender balance on public boards in the 1st year of the next Parliament. • We will continue to promote gender balance in all areas of society - and support the 50:50 by 2020 initiative to increase, to 50%, the representation of women in our Parliament, councils, and public bodies. • We have no plans to change the law on abortion, including the time limit • The SNP will continue to fully support the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign in their efforts to secure fairness for women affected by the acceleration in the retirement age. • We will establish an Advisory Council on Women and Girls to advise on action to tackle workplace and occupational segregation and other issues relating to gender equality. • We will consider a system of penalties for local authorities that haven't settled outstanding equal pay claims, or are still not paying equal pay by April 2017. • We will compel those with more than 20 employees to publish their pay gap every two years and an equal pay statement every four years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decriminalise sex work in line with best international practice to reduce harm and the risks to those involved, and consult sex workers on the development of future legislation • Retain existing abortion legislation • Reform the Gender Recognition Act to bring it into line with international good practice in recognising the gender identity of trans people, including consideration of the medical requirements placed on applicants, and recognise the gender identity of non-binary people • Get a balance of women and men on every public board. • Ensure that future public appointments move the composition of public boards to balance the number of women and men - with every board expected to have achieved balance by the end of the next cycle of appointments - and to reflect better the wider diversity in society • Use the new powers of the Scottish Parliament to enable political parties to balance lists of candidates for election equally between women and men. • Use the influence of the Scottish Government to eliminate the gender pay gap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green MSPs will support a Gender Equality Bill to drive progress against all forms of gender inequality. • We will advocate for the decriminalisation of sex work so sex workers can enjoy legal protection from exploitation, trafficking and violence and access to better support and healthcare. • Allow Universal Credit to be split between partners and paid more frequently than once/month • We will support calls for a Gender Equality in Business scheme to incentivise gender-sensitive employment practices, and public procurement laws that allow decisions to be based on sustainability, equality, community benefit and local supply, not just the short-term cost. Greens will also back a non-permanent commission to tackle gender and racial occupational segregation in the labour market and lay out the case for the devolution of equalities legislation.
------------	-----	---	---	---

Equalities	Sexual Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with sports' governing bodies to support efforts to end LGBTI discrimination in sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support effective training of school staff to support LGBTI young people in schools, and make sure sexual health, parenthood and relationships education is LGBTI inclusive in all schools; • Condemn any form of 'gay cure' therapy in Scotland and consider any further steps that could be taken to make the practice unavailable in Scotland • End the blood donation ban for gay men, replacing it with risk-based criteria for all potential donors • Work with teachers and schools to tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, and ask local authorities to record such behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legal duty on local authorities and public institutions to deliver effective services directly to the LGBTI+ community. - Support comprehensive action to tackle discrimination and inequality in employment and public services. We will push for enforcement of the existing legal duty to deliver effective services directly to the LGBTI+ community. • Access to NHS care for trans people within 18 week treatment time • Ban on medically unnecessary intersex surgery for minors and 'conversion therapy' • Review of blood donation restrictions • Identify inequalities for LGBTI+ couples and people of all non-binary gender identities
------------	--------------------	--	---	---

External Affairs	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will treble the number of exporting advisors in Scotland and fund new Innovation and Investment Hubs in London, Dublin and Brussels. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Campaign for a 'Green In' in the upcoming Referendum. •Work as a pan European movement to democratise the structures and institutions of the EU. Believe in a more localised and regionalised Europe where political and economic power is decentralised and MS cooperate on mutually beneficial initiatives such as cooperation against tax evasion and transnational crime or the harmonisation of regulations on environmental protection and workers rights. •Reform the EU Single Market - campaign to stop EU procurement and state aid rules that prevent MS from favouring local enterprise or supporting emerging industries. Will push for the use of the Teckal exemption to ensure that local, publically owned enterprises are favoured in procurement by the SG. •Make Scotland the Renewable capital of Europe: the exchange of skills and technology would enable the growth of a decarbonised European economy and the establishment of a European super-grid would allow Scotland to export its huge surplus of renewable energy across the continent. •Pan-European solidarity. Join hands across the continent to oppose ideologically driven economic austerity.
------------------	--------	--	--	--

External Affairs	International Development	<p>We have supported the continued presence of the Green Investment Bank in Edinburgh – seeking and securing assurances from the UK Government on the continuation of its work as an investor in new green infrastructure, its green purpose and its Edinburgh base, as they move to privatise the bank. We will seek reassurances from the new owners on these points and support the internationalisation of the organisation, helping to secure and promote Scotland’s role as a global leader in the fast-growing international market for green finance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Continue to promote exports through the work of the Scottish Government, Scottish Development International and the UK diplomatic presence around the world; ●We will continue to develop and deepen the relationships between Scotland and Malawi at governmental, community, educational and environmental levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●We will campaign to increase the SG’s International Development Fund and Climate Justice Fund, boosting our capability to fund overseas projects in support of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Green MSPs will support work to embed policy coherence for development across SG decision making.
------------------	---------------------------	---	--	---

External Affairs	International Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will prioritise our engagement with the USA and Canada...This engagement will be part of a wider effort to develop stronger relationships throughout the Americas. •We are committed to a long term relationship with Japan, China and India focussed on education, business and culture. •We will look at new ways to engage with our Diaspora and support them as they develop and shape the identity of our country on the world stage. •We will implement the Global Scotland Trade and Investment Strategy to drive exports. •We will treble the number of exporting advisors in Scotland and fund new Innovation and Investment Hubs in London, Dublin and Brussels. •We will work with key partners to host an international conference to share our lessons and learn from other countries experience. •We established Scotland's Climate Justice Fund and have spent £6 million to date to help some of the world's poorest communities adapt to the challenges of climate change. •We will increase the Climate Justice Fund to at least £3 million a year for the next five years. •We will also continue our support for the Central Scotland Green Network. •we will share our expertise and provide help in kind to the Government of Malawi to help them design their renewable energy strategy, deliver green growth and extend access to electricity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to develop cultural and economic links with the worldwide Scottish diaspora. • Establish a formal protocol for helping refugees in Scottish communities, to build on good practice and make sure refugees and host communities get the support they need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establish a Scottish diplomatic service, tasked with representing Scottish interests abroad within the areas devolved to the SG, conduct diplomatic relations with governments and citizens overseas and providing consular service to Scottish citizens abroad. • Support Scotland gaining observer status at international bodies like the UN , World Health Organisation and Nordic Council. We will also encourage cities and local authorities to join international bodies such as United Cities and Local Governments or the Council of Municipalities and Regions to make progress on global issues where national efforts have stalled. •Seek observer status in organisations such as the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative or the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs. •Campaign for the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones in Europe and the Middle East. •Oppose TTIP •Establishing a Scottish peace centre tasked with researching conflict issues and developing best practice for nonviolent conflict prevention and resolution. The peace academy could promote Scotland as host for international negotiations and summits on conflict prevention, non-proliferation and debt arbitration and engage with international academic and peace building institutions such as the UN's University for Peace. • Curtail arms trading by cutting Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International support to enterprises involved in arms sales to human rights abusers. •Recognise the state of Palestine, Support the rights of Kurdish people in the Middle East. Where possible support a policy of boycotts, divestments and sanctions against entities such as Israel and Russia, involved in the illegal occupation of territories. •Refugees: campaign for UK Gov to accept
------------------	-------------------------	---	---	---

more asylum seekers.

- Refugees: Scottish strategy for 'new Scots', including housing, work skills, and transition grants

- Refugees: limit detention of refugees, close Dungavel, and create a safe and legal route to the UK

Food and Drink Industry	Growth of Industry	•£5m investment to support island and rural produce. • we will continue to invest in projects which get goods and services to communities more efficiently. •We will work to improve urban deliveries in particular.	• Put a priority in the Renewable Heat Strategy to help Scotland's food and drink businesses move away from fossil fuels, through grants and loans to make use of the waste materials, hydro power and geothermal energy surrounding many of those businesses.	•Promote community food hubs. Localising food system supports local economies. By supporting the promotion of community food hubs across Scotland, bringing farmers and consumers together to shorten food chains.
-------------------------	--------------------	--	--	--

<p>Food and Drink Industry</p>	<p>Healthy eating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •School food regulations will be reviewed to make sure all primary school children have access to at least 5 of their '5 a Day' •we will protect the sector's international reputation by continuing our opt-out of the cultivation of genetically modified crops for the lifetime of the parliament. •we will bring forward a good food nation bill to draw together all aspects of the Scottish government's work on food and drink - including food standards, public procurement and food waste. •we will implement our good food nation policy drawing on the expertise on the Scottish food commission and civic society. •We will appoint a National Chef to champion good food across Scotland. •We will set up a £5 million fund to promote island and regional food and drink brands and we will work to increase the supply and demand of organic food in Scotland, using public procurement to drive demand. •We will revisit our health and nutrition legislative framework for school meals to ensure that our children have more access to health, Scottish produce both within and outside the school gates. •Through the Community Empowerment Act, we will seek to increase access to land for food growing purposes, as part of our strong commitment to develop allotments and community gardens. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Levy to discourage the promotion of unhealthy foods. It would hit companies whose sales failed to meet nutritional targets and encourage supermarket chains to become healthier places to shop. •Support campaigns to ban price promotions on sugary foods and to end unhealthy food and drink advertising aimed at young people.
--------------------------------	-----------------------	--	--	---

Food and Drink Industry	Retailers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to reform procurement rules to encourage purchase of local food and help smaller producers and farmers access large public sector markets; • Press for increased powers for the Grocery Code Adjudicator to allow investigation of unfair practices throughout the supply chain not just from retailer and direct supplier; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push for a levy on retailers and caterers who have multiple outlets to discourage the promotion of unhealthy foods.
Health - NHS	Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes-based approach to targets 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give senior healthcare professionals greater power over the operation and organisation of care, with a greater focus on long term targets for preventative care.

Health - NHS	Provision of Primary Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Keep NHS Prescriptions free. •We will continue to roll-out the family nurse partnership, providing targeted support to every eligible first time, teenage mother by the end of 2018. We will also offer the programme to vulnerable, first time mothers aged 20-24 and extend it to include more children at risk of moving into care. •Consider the relocation of post dementia diagnostic services into primary care •Bringing together a range of professionals into GP surgeries, and giving all GPs access to an enhanced pharmacist •Recruit at least 250 community link workers to work in GP surgeries •Maintain and extend GP extended opening hours programme •Implement Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie's recommendations on out of hours care •Retain free prescriptions and eye tests, and deliver enhanced community audiology services •Continue to support NHS dentistry •Continue the Child smile programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase resources available to GPs in the most deprived areas to tackle health inequalities. •Work with the Royal College of GPs in Scotland to build a sustainable future for local health care, reducing the unproductive and misguided controls and targets imposed by central government •Increase the proportion of NHS funding allocated to primary care and treble the allocation to the Primary Care Fund •Giving community pharmacists limited authority to comment and seek changes to prescriptions. •We will extend the rights of GPs to social prescribing, including free access to exercise programmes or home insulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fight to ensure that primary care provision is equitable. •Seek to ensure that all primary care services - GPs, community and practice nurses, pharmacists and others have the resources to improve shared working and caseload. •Fund health visitors and midwives to help families to claim the financial support they're entitled to •Extend HPV vaccine to all young people
--------------	---------------------------	--	--	---

Health - NHS	Recruitment and Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will recruit an extra 500 health visitors by 2018 so that every child benefits from a health development check at 30 months. •Review health board numbers, structures and regulation to reduce backroom duplication •Enshrine safe staffing in law •Introduce national and regional workforce planning •Invest £3m to train an additional 500 advanced nurse practitioners •We will increase the number of GP training places from 300 to 400 a year. •We will invest over £23 million to increase the number of medical school places. •New entry level programme for those from deprived backgrounds •Establish the first graduate entry medical school. •Retain the nursing and midwifery bursary and protect free tuition for student nurses and midwives •Discretionary fund of at least £1 million for nursing and midwifery students experiencing financial hardship •No compulsory redundancies in the NHS •Recruit at least 250 community link workers to work in GP surgeries •Create an extra 1000 training places for nurses and midwives •We will recruit an extra 500 health visitors by 2018 and work to ensure that every child benefits from a health development check at 30 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Train, Recruit and Retain more GPs. •Increase the number of support staff (nurses, allied health professionals and councillors) working in general practice. •We will improve workforce planning in the Scottish NHS so that we retain and recruit the right number of staff. •We will require the health minister to publish an annual report on workforce planning and lead an annual debate on it in the Scottish Parliament to allow MSPs to challenge the plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Make healthcare jobs more appealing with less paperwork, more time for learning and development and the Living Wage Plus for social care staff
--------------	---------------------------	--	---	---

Health - NHS	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Will ensure primary care, social care, and mental health each receive an increasing share of the NHS budget in each year of the next parliament. •Record investment in the NHS, supporting health care across our islands with more health care in the community. •Ensure that the NHS revenue budget rises by £500 million more than inflation by the end of the next parliament – which means that it will increase by almost £2 billion in total. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reverse the decline of the NHS. •Increase proportion of funding allocated to primary care. •Fund the Scottish NHS so that it stays ahead of inflation and keeps pace with funding in the rest of the UK. •We will maintain free prescriptions, and free eye and dental checks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Keep the NHS Public, including reviewing contracts with private providers, and increase funding. •Set up debt arbitration commission to cancel or significantly renegotiate any damaging PFI contracts
--------------	---------	---	--	--

Health - NHS	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Commitment to health and social care integration. •Shift the balance of care and balance of investment towards primary and social care. •We will develop a new 10-year Child and Adolescent Health and Well-being Strategy, covering both physical and mental well-being. A new Framework for Families with Disabled Children will also be implemented so that all our children get the right support from birth to adulthood. • Access to palliative care for all who need it by the end of the Parliament. •National co-ordinator to improve childhood bereavement services. •Public funding for children's hospices to match public funding for adult hospices •Research in the prevention of transmission of blood-borne viruses, including considering the availability of PrEP •Invest an extra £20 million over the next three years to increase the financial assistance to people affected by infected blood products •Prevent and diagnose diabetes early; increase supply of insulin pumps •Consider ways to apply improvement methodology developed in the NHS in other public service contexts •Introduce a pause in the appraisal process for new medicines and introduce new guidance on drug prescription •Fund six research PhDs- three in MND and three in MS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will support access to pre-exposure PrEP treatment for those most vulnerable to HIV transmission. •We will continue to raise awareness of the early warning signs of diseases and the preventative approaches available. •We will continue to extend the use of technology enabled care and tele-medicine where it can help patients and medical professionals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Integrate health and social care •Support campaigns for all clinical trials to be registered and their full methods and summary results published. •Explore ways to ensure drugs are available to the NHS at the lowest possible cost.
--------------	---------	---	---	---

Health - NHS	Provision of Secondary Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Consult on ways of increasing organ donation, including a soft opt-out system.•Provide five new elective treatment centres in Edinburgh, Livingston, Dundee, Inverness and Aberdeen.•Invest £200m in a network of 5 new diagnostic centres and the Golden Jubilee hospital [note: unclear if this is £200m for diagnostic centres or £200m for GJ]•Commit to the Six Essential Actions for A&E•Create a network of major trauma centres•Invest £100m to implement the new cancer strategy•Introduce a pause in the appraisal process for new medicines to allow for negotiation, and introduce new guidance on prescribing to ensure fair access to new drugs•Consider increasing available number of full IVF cycles to three, and allow IVF for couples where one partner has no biological child		
--------------	-----------------------------	---	--	--

<p>Health - Social Care</p>	<p>Provision of Social Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Integrate with health services. •We will protect free personal and nursing care for the elderly. We will also examine the introduction of the extension of free personal and nursing care to those under 65 with a diagnosis of dementia. •Consult on the introduction of national guidance for care charges •We will make charges for social care services fairer. •Exempt War Pension/ Guaranteed Income Payments from consideration in assessments for care charges; ensure war disablement pensions are fully disregarded from social care means tests. •End 'time and task' based care •Consider a national or regional approach to supporting carers and cared for people •Increase use of the Carer Positive scheme •Invest an additional £1.3bn to integrated partnerships to build up social care capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Join up health and social care to improve social care in Scotland. •We will value the care workforce, enabling them to provide more continuity of care for the people they help. They will be paid at least the Living Wage. •Extend free personal care to make sure care services are available free of charge for people with dementia at all ages – Frank's Law . •End care charges for personal care for people with degenerative illnesses such as dementia and Motor Neurone Disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adequately resource local authorities to provide support plans for unpaid carers •Support young carers •Create independent social care tribunal system to help unpaid carers realise existing rights •Allow local government to raise funds for social care through progressive taxation.
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	--	--	---

Health - Social Care	Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•All Scotland's NHS staff are already paid at least the Living Wage, and from October 2016 this will also apply to social care workers.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Green MSPs will campaign for all care and support workers to be paid significantly above the Living Wage, financed by progressive taxation. Earlier this year Green councillors in City of Edinburgh Council proposed a funded plan to pay a 'Living Wage Plus' of £9 an hour to social care staff. Green MSPs will campaign for this to be introduced across Scotland to help local authorities recruit the best staff and retain those with experience.•Improved working conditions for social care workers, such as paid travel time, sick leave, skills training and an end to 'Zero Hours' care worker contracts.•we will fight for a "Carers Wage" that values people who care for young and old.
----------------------	----------	---	--	--

Health - Tackling Health Issues	Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Invest an extra £50m in cancer treatment.•Invest £100m to implement the new cancer strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will take forward the recommendations of the new cancer strategy Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Create comprehensive care plans to address the increased number of cancer diagnoses and patients living beyond treatment with long-term health problems. Plans should address patients' wider care needs including emotional, financial and practical support.
---------------------------------------	--------	---	---	---

<p>Health - Tackling Health Issues</p>	<p>Mental Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and welfare programmes will be designed to take account of mental health conditions and bring an end to the difficulties people face with DWP. • Invest at least £150 million to improve mental health services in Scotland. • We also will work with mental health charities, stakeholders and service users to put in place a ten-year plan to transform mental health care in Scotland, including for children and young people. That means looking at innovative ways of delivering better mental health services for children and young people, and bringing together healthcare and education to ensure faster treatment without stigma. • Ensure mental health conditions and physical health conditions are treated with parity • Ensure that the principle of “ask once, get help fast” is in force across the country by the end of the Parliament. • Examine how sport could be used in a system of 'social prescribing' for mental health patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the law to put mental health on the same statutory footing as physical health. • Make more therapies available by training more nurses, counsellors and psychologists. • Properly resource services to treat children and young people • Continue work on suicide prevention • Increase support for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. • Double the funding put into CAMHS - improving access to treatment and open two new specialist centres serving the North of Scotland, in Inverness and Aberdeen. • The party has said they would introduce a mental health 'rapid reaction force' • Providing full-time 24/7 cover in police divisions and A&E departments, as part of a "revolution" in the way mental health problems were treated. Under the plans, mental health staff would be deployed to police custody centres and work with police officers in "joint cars" to provide emergency care. • Fully update the Scottish Mental Health Strategy • Increase access to a range of interventions including 'talking therapies' • Bring more fully qualified cognitive behavioural therapists into the NHS • Make sure that every GP practice has a qualified mental health professional available • Set standards for the training of other professionals so that they are better able to identify and address mental health problems with the people they meet • Improve mental health support for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on mental health ensuring it is given the same consideration as physical health. • Health in the workplace - work to continue to provide advice on occupational health risks. • More resources for groups who suffer poor MH more often (e.g. LGBT+, disabled people, young people) • Identify child MH issues early • Improved services for Students experiencing mental ill-health.
--	----------------------	--	---	---

service veterans

- Set a standard so that every school has a mental health champion
- Review school counselling services
- Empower teachers to help young people and parents access a wide range of relevant mental health services
- Examine the establishment of 'Crisis Centres'
- Increase mental health services in prisons
- When the Scottish Parliament gains the power to create new benefits we will use that power to help people who are at risk of losing their job, or entitlement, to other benefits, because of a mental health problem. We will support them financially and give them access to the NHS mental health treatment to get them back into their workplace.

<p>Health - Tackling Health Issues</p>	<p>Obesity/Physical Inactivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •School food regulations will be reviewed to make sure all primary school children have access to at least 5 of their '5 a Day' •Our ambition is for Scotland to be the first "Daily Mile" nation •New strategy on diet and obesity to reinforce co-ordinated action on the promotion of unhealthy foods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will continue the wide range of action to tackle smoking and poor diet, and encourage exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Work with Local Authorities to provide quality sport and physical activity throughout the curriculum. •Support LAs to provide free fruit, practical food education and work towards free school meals for all primary pupils. •Schools to provide a wider variety of sport, and allow girls to choose gender segregated PE classes and a wider range of PE kit
--	------------------------------------	---	--	---

<p>Housing</p>	<p>Affordable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will invest £3billion to build at least 50,000 affordable homes over the next 5 years. 35,000 of these will be in the social rented sector. •We will also continue to support council house building. •We'll enable the housing element of UC to be paid direct to social housing landlords where a tenant requests it and also consider extending this to private renters. •Restoration of housing benefit for 18-21 year olds. Investing £2.5 million a year in agencies that provide advice and support to help people access the benefits they are entitled to. We will also ensure that accessible information is available for those with special needs. •By offering housing health checks for all tenants in the social rented sector we will support people to consider the best housing options for them, including the possibility of using our home ownership schemes. •For disabled people, or for those who have developed mobility or other disabilities, affordable and accessible housing with support can help them continue to live independent lives, we will provide guidance and timescales for installing adaptations where they are needed. •We will improve tenant participation in the management of their homes and use a partner organisation to help tenants become more aware of their rights and be more involved in the management of properties. This will include placing a duty on Housing Associations and councils to consult with tenants on the management of homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Our investment programme for socially rented housing will continue to develop innovative ways of leveraging new money into social housing, in particular by taking steps to increase the investment by local authority pension funds. •We will allow housing benefit to be paid directly to landlords and will retain the entitlement to housing benefit for those aged 18-25. •We will increase the number of homes constructed for social rent, make sure they are accessible and re-establish social renting as a valid long term option for people. •We will increase the number of affordable homes by 50,000 over the next Parliament. We will make sure 40,000 of these are for social rent rather than purchase. •With private house building returning to pre-recession levels this will mean around 110,000 new homes will have been brought into use by 2021 with one third of those for affordable rent. To do this we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support the continued innovation that has harnessed new forms of funding for Scottish housing and brought new types of property into use; -Expand the Housing Fund for Scotland model that has seen investment in rented homes pioneered by a local government pension fund. This expansion to all funds will add 12,000 new homes. We will work with pension fund trustees to give them the confidence of an effective return for their investments; -Use a proportion of any future Barnett consequentials from the UK which are classed as 'financial transactions' to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Build 12,000 new social homes a year •LAs to have greater powers to buy properties on the local market to avoid building on greenfield sites. •New housing designed to be low energy use. •Drive up space standards, design houses that are easy to adapt for independent living, and build net zero carbon homes' •Lift restrictions on pension funds that invest in local infrastructure e.g. social housing •Support legislation which makes it easier to establish housing co-operatives or bring rented property into shared management •Devolve housing benefit; move from 'subsidising high rents towards subsidising bricks and mortar' •Set up a Housing Investment Bank and attract pension funds to invest, in order to fund social housing •Design a Scottish fuel poverty scheme funded by the largest energy companies.
----------------	---------------------------	---	---	--

			<p>fund new housing association properties as well as help-to-buy schemes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Renew the empty homes strategy to bring as many of the 27,000 empty homes back into use as part of the 110,000 total of new homes - including introduction of a Help to Renovate loan;-Work with the British Business Bank to help direct support to small and medium sized house-builders who struggle to get support from traditional banks;-Extend existing house-building programmes by using a proportion of investment from our Fit For The Future Investment Plan.	
--	--	--	---	--

Housing	First-Time Buyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will support 5,000 households, including 2,000 first time buyers on modest incomes, into home ownership through Help to Buy and Shared Equity schemes. This will be supported by an initial investment of £160m in 2016/17.•We will also continue to support first time buyers by maintaining the progressive Land & Building Transaction Tax (LBTT) which reduced tax for those at the lower end of the housing market.•By offering housing health checks for all tenants in the social rented sector we will support people to consider the best housing options for them, including the possibility of using our home ownership schemes.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Ensure a steady supply of land for housing at low cost and ensure that it is developed. This requires better control of bank lending, better affordable renting options and a fair property tax.
---------	-------------------	---	--	---

Housing	Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •By the end of the next parliament, we will ensure that all temporary accommodation is the same standard as permanent accommodation. •We will also introduce a cap of one week for families with children and pregnant women living in B&B accommodation unless they are exceptional circumstances. •Restoration of housing benefit for 18-21 year olds if the UK government goes ahead with plans to remove it. Investing £2.5 million a year in agencies that provide advice and support to help people access the benefits they are entitled to. We will also ensure that accessible information is available for those with special needs. •We will refresh our Ages, Homes and Community strategy to take account of changing need, demographics and to help address issues of isolation. We will ask LAs to ensure that their local development plans take into account the increasing need for housing for older people and for disabled people. We will look at extending Housing Association Grant available to councils and housing associations for this purpose. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •National strategy on preventing homelessness, including measures to empower tenants through better advice and support, including legal aid. •Provide appropriate support for those who have particular needs and are at risk of homelessness, such as women and children escaping domestic violence.
---------	--------------	---	--	--

Housing	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Through flexible grants, loans and guarantees we will help bring empty or derelict properties back into housing use. Through our Empty Homes Partnership, Empty Homes Fund and Town Centre Empty Homes Fund we will encourage councils and individuals to bring empty homes into use for rent or purchase. We will concentrate on rural areas and in need of increased housing and town centres that can be rejuvenated and regenerated through such initiatives. •We will modernise compulsory purchase orders to ensure vacant and derelict land can be brought into use for communities and look at interim measures to achieve this in advance of legislation. •We will encourage communities to buy property and land that is in a state of neglect through our community empowerment legislation and by accessing the Community Empowerment Fund. •We will consult on a national standard for private rented homes to ensure a good basic standard of accommodation, driving out rogue landlords who exploit tenants in sub-standard accommodation. •By the end of the next parliament, we will ensure that all temporary accommodation is the same standard as permanent accommodation •We will also consider the introduction of a similar scheme to Help to Buy for new build homes to encourage growth in the retirement housing sector to better meet the need for affordable retirement homes, sheltered, and very sheltered housing. •In the next parliament we will bring 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Work with Local Authorities to create safe and exciting outdoor spaces - more green spaces, more walking and cycling routes, accessible sports centres and more access to wild land. •Give councils the power to buy land at 'existing use value' •Make vacant and derelict land liable for non-domestic rates •support for compulsory sales orders to enable local councils to make best use of vacant and derelict land •No tax reduction for second or vacant homes •Using a property as a second home will require planning permission •Drive up space standards, design houses that are easy to adapt for independent living, and build net zero carbon homes. •Require large developments to provide cultural space •Ensure Noise Abatement legislation cannot be used to restrict existing venues •New Common Good Act to give communities greater control over common good property in Scotland's towns and cities
---------	----------	--	--	--

forward a Planning Reform Bill based on the recommendations of the Planning Review. This will aim to streamline development planning and management procedures and practices to remove unnecessary blockages and delays.

- We will also amend Planning Obligations so they work for the benefit of all and do not cause delays to the completion of projects.

- As part of the Planning Bill, we will introduce a clean land and building clause to ensure non-domestic property owners cannot leave their properties in a state of neglect or abandonment.

- By simplifying local development plans, we will ensure they are effective for both local communities and developers.

- 2016 is our Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design and we will explore how Architecture and Design Scotland can support the development of high quality social housing, and examine how space standards in Scotland compare with the rest of the EU.

Housing	Tenants' Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will improve tenant participation in the management of their homes and use a partner organisation to help tenants become more aware of their rights and be more involved in the management of properties. This will include placing a duty on Housing Associations and councils to consult with tenants on the management of homes. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tenants' rights to be strengthened by introduction of a minimum operating standard. •Committed to putting tenants' rights and rent controls at the top of the political agenda. •Campaign for rent controls across Scotland •Promote better regulation of letting agents and landlords •Establish a not-for-profit repair service to manage major repairs, including to tenements •Remove VAT on building repairs and provide targeted help with the cost of repairs (e.g. energy efficiency grants) •National strategy on preventing homelessness, including measures to empower tenants through better advice and support, including legal aid.
---------	-----------------	---	--	--

<p>Housing</p>	<p>Warm homes / energy efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will tackle fuel poverty by improving energy efficiency, starting with an investment of £103 million in 2016-17 to deliver improvements for 14,000 more homes. We will prioritise the development of the district heating system and establish a loan fund for this purpose •We will work with the stakeholders to review the fuel poverty action plan, including the fuel poverty eradication target. •We will raise the profile of fuel poverty schemes that are available and include them in our benefit take up campaign. •We will also promote the Our Power social enterprise energy model for councils and housing associations to help keep costs down for social rent tenants. •We will ensure Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) fuel poverty measures are targeting those people living in poverty and examine how we can use new flexibilities over the Warm Homes Discount and ECO to help with these aims. •We will introduce a Warm Homes Bill in the next parliament to support our work to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improving the energy efficiency of homes to become a national infrastructure project •We will create catch up zones to tackle fuel poverty in remote and island areas which have fallen behind in getting homes insulated and warm. •We will introduce new building standards for greater energy efficiency and restart the review of standards that was cancelled by the SG in Sept 2015. This ambition will be incorporated into a Warm Homes Act to secure the growth district heating and renewable heat. It will be backed up by new resources for house holders and business from our Fit for the Future investment plan. •We will also use new powers to shape the Energy Company Obligation to combine support from power companies and the SG to provide bigger warm home grants for homeowners and tenants •We will put the focus on renewable heat, adopting the first ever industrial heat strategy, promoting combined heat and power, using waste heat more effectively and developing geothermal heat from disused coalmines. •To support renewable heat we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take forward the recommendations of the Expert Commission on District Heating; To support warmer homes we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase in a new regulation to make sure all newly-let properties achieve energy rating C, in order to reflect that landlords have the capital asset and resources to make the investment, whereas tenants do not; • Make sure new social housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Investment in the domestic energy storage system •New Build and Retrofitting Standards: call for high efficiency standards to deliver net zero carbon new buildings by 2030, and will push for the rate of retrofitting to be accelerated to ensure that all existing properties also achieve Band C by 2025. •Push for all homes to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate of Band C by 2025 and support the introduction of minimum energy efficiency standards at the point of sale or rent •Support for combined heat and power (CHP) systems: to meet our target of 50% of all our energy use from renewables by 2030, we must move to generating more renewable heat. We believe that increased opportunities for CHP systems, including district heating, should be prioritised, particularly in new housing developments and new public buildings •Taking a whole-house approach: the Scottish Greens call for coordinating action to deliver a whole-house approach to energy efficiency and usage, bringing together insulation schemes with fuel poverty programs and area-based energy advice schemes to help keep homes warm into the future. •Design a Scottish fuel poverty scheme funded by the largest energy companies.
----------------	---------------------------------------	---	--	--

incorporates renewable energy systems as a condition of funding support from public money;

- Use the new power for the Scottish Parliament to hold OFGEM to account, to press for new governance arrangements for renewable heat to make sure people connected to renewable heat networks get a good deal;
- Encourage local authorities to use their extended powers of competence and their Municipal Energy Strategy to investigate using their own renewable energy generation to provide low tariffs for those in fuel poverty;
- Incorporate these ambitions into a Warm Homes Act to secure the growth of district heating and renewable heat, and help to improve the energy efficiency of buildings

•Our proposals for warm homes, and support for businesses on renewable heat and energy efficiency will use the Fit For The Future Investment Fund drawn largely from the increased borrowing powers under the Scotland Act.

Local Government	Council tax and replacement	SEE Tax - Council Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give back to councils the powers to set local domestic and business taxation, and remove the financial penalties used by the present government to exert control. This will give local councils control of more than 50 per cent of their revenues and give them a real stake in economic progress; • We support a fairer system of local taxation to replace the Council tax. We are attracted by the economic and social benefits that could be brought about by a system of land value tax - based on the value of the land. It will be possible to consider and evaluate further this proposal for domestic properties. Further work to this proposal should take place in the 2016-21 parliamentary session. Substantial proposals for change will only be enacted in the 2016-2021 parliamentary session if they enjoy wide cross party and public support. • To accelerate this we will speed up the process to map all of Scotland's land ownership. • We will also make sure robust transition arrangements are in place, alongside measures to protect people with low incomes from adverse changes. • We will recognise the diverse needs of every local authority and will make sure they get at least 90% of the average support offered by central government to support their services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local funding: Will fight for local governments to be able to levy their own local taxes – including entirely new ones where there is a clear public demand – and to set property tax rates to match local needs. This would result in local government raising at least 50% of its own income. • Replace council tax over 5 years with a Residential Property Tax (RPT) for individual properties. Would be applied at a rate of 1% on annually updated values, with a tax free housing allowance of £10,000 for every home which would raise an additional £490m for local services. • Councils would have powers to vary this tax locally. • A tax reduction scheme would be available for low-income households and eligible households could reduce or defer payments as they choose. • It would mean a property valued at £150,000 would be liable for RPT of £1,500 but with a £10,000 tax-free allowance the owners would only pay £1,400.
------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------	---	--

Local Government	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will also promote the Our Power social enterprise energy model for councils and housing associations to help keep costs down for social rent tenants.•We will also continue to support council house building.•Through flexible grants, loans and guarantees we will help bring empty or derelict properties back into housing use. Through our Empty Homes Partnership, Empty Homes Fund and Town Centre Empty Homes Fund we will encourage councils and individuals to bring empty homes into use for rent or purchase. We will concentrate on rural areas and in need of increased housing and town centres that can be rejuvenated and regenerated through such initiatives.•We will also promote the Our Power social enterprise energy model for councils and housing associations to help keep costs down for social rent tenants.•We will improve tenant participation in the management of their homes and use a partner organisation to help tenants become more aware of their rights and be more involved in the management of properties. This will include placing a duty on Housing Associations and councils to consult with tenants on the management of homes.		
------------------	---------	--	--	--

Local Government	Local democracy and community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We want to re-invigorate local government by reconnecting it with communities. The principle of local control, not behalf of a community, but by a community is key. •Following the report of the independent review of local government ward boundaries we will protect local communities by taking forward changes only where communities have been adequately respected in the new proposed arrangements. •We will also support the One in Five Campaign to increase the participation of disabled people. We will build on the example of the pilot fund for the 2016 elections and establish a £200,000 Elected Office Fund to provide support for disabled people seeking to stand for selection in the 2017 local government elections. •We aim to transform our democratic landscape, protect and renew public services and refresh the relationship between citizens, communities and councils. We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult on and introduce a Bill that will decentralise LA functions, budgets and democratic oversight to local communities. - Review and reform the role of CPPs so they are better placed to drive reform, including through use of citizens' panels and town hall meetings. - Continue to grow and develop City Deals, Town Centre Partnerships and Regional Economic Partnerships so that clusters of agencies and shared interests can work together for the benefit of their local economies and communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a full power of general competence to local authorities to allow them to meet the needs of the people they serve; • Allow local communities to establish a burgh council to serve their area, established by a charter defining its functions. Such new local community-focused authorities would empower communities and give a true local focus to service delivery and the use of public land and assets; • We will support Scottish regional deals, building on the existing city deal model to bring governments, local business, councils, and colleges together to develop their regional economy. These can champion, for example, the oil and gas industry in the North East, tourism or food and drink. • Devolve the functions of the Crown Estate from Edinburgh to local communities to ensure that the benefits of our marine resources are retained as far as possible within the communities reliant on them; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protecting the role of local government: A proposed written constitution will have an entrenchment of the rights and powers of local government. •Support proposals made by Cosla's Commission on Local Democracy, on which all 5 main parties were represented, that Scottish Ministers should be placed under a legal duty to explain why the decisions they make are not being made locally. Local government should have a 'right to challenge' to take on functions currently exercised by national bodies.
------------------	---	---	---	--

	<p>•The Community Empowerment Act delivered new rights for communities and is backed by the Empowering Communities Fund and the Strengthening Communities Programme. We will build on this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Setting councils a target of having at least 1% of their budget subject to Community Choices budgeting. This will be backed by the Community Choices Fund to help public bodies and community groups build on examples of best practice.- Allowing community councils that can demonstrate a strong democratic mandate to deliver some services. We intend that in future community council elections will be held on the same day across the country to increase their profile and recognition.- Encouraging improved tenant participation in management of their homes. We will use partner organisation to help tenants become more aware of their rights and encourage tenants to become more involved in the management of properties. <p>•We want to encourage and make it easier for people from all backgrounds to get involved at all levels of decision making. Our elected representatives should better reflect the society we live in.</p>		
--	--	--	--

Local Government	Other funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will consider a system of penalties for local authorities that haven't settled outstanding equal pay claims, or are still not paying equal pay by April 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give back to councils the powers to set local domestic and business taxation, and remove the financial penalties used by the present government to exert control. This will give local councils control of more than 50 per cent of their revenues and give them a real stake in economic progress; •We will support a full scale review of business rates to consider the fundamentals of the system- such as the current penalties businesses face when they improve their premises or install renewable energy machinery - and the difficulties faced by some start up companies. We want businesses to have a strong role in shaping the new system. •We will recognise the diverse needs of every local authority and will make sure they get at least 90%of the average support offered by central government to support their services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local funding: Will fight for local governments to be able to levy their own local taxes – including entirely new ones where there is a clear public demand – and to set property tax rates to match local needs. This would result in local government raising at least 50% of its own income. •Allow local government to raise funds for social care through progressive taxation. •Make vacant and derelict land liable for non-domestic rates
------------------	---------------	---	---	---

Local Government	Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will review the roles and responsibilities of LAs and the relationships between LAs and health boards. •We will create a single library card to be used at any council library across Scotland. •All Scotland's NHS staff are already paid at least the Living Wage, and from October 2016 this will also apply to social care workers. •We will consider what more should be done to support the social work profession and encourage more people to train to be social workers. As part of this, we will work with local authorities and other agencies and organisations so that more newly qualified social workers get a guarantee of a full year employment after qualifying. •We will continue to invest in projects which get goods and services to communities more efficiently. •Libraries have a vital role to play in developing literacy, supporting attainment and encouraging people of all ages to develop and maintain a love of reading. •We will continue to invest in the National Libraries Strategy, including initiatives like coding clubs and WWI history projects and we will ensure that every child in Scotland receives a library membership. •We will seek to further improve access to quality green space, especially for deprived communities, to maximise health, education and biodiversity benefits. - Allowing community councils that can demonstrate a strong democratic mandate to deliver some services. We intend that in future community council 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Allow local government to raise funds for social care through progressive taxation.
------------------	----------	--	--	--

elections will be held on the same day
across the country to increase their
profile and recognition.

Social Security	Baby box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Every new-born in Scotland will be entitled to a 'baby box', offering essential items for a child's first weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will start a pilot project to give parents of new-born babies a Finnish-style baby box containing essential items to ensure a healthy baby, proven to cut child mortality rates internationally. 	
Social Security	Bedroom Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abolish the bedroom tax as soon as we have the power to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fully remove the bedroom tax. 	
Social Security	Carers Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase the carer's allowance to the same rate as jobseeker's allowance, increasing carers' incomes by £600 p/a •We will also increase the carer's allowance for those looking after more than one disabled child, to recognise higher costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Commit to increase the carer's allowance to the same rate as jobseeker's allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase carer's allowance to £93 per week. •Redesign the Carer's Allowance, including a lower threshold for hours of care and a top-up for people who care for more than one person. •Exclude Carer's Allowance from income assessments •Explore introducing a Young Carer's Grant

Social Security	DLA/PIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Setting clear timescales for conducting assessments and making decisions in respect of the benefits being devolved. We will also establish a transparent and accessible appeals process. - with guaranteed timescales for decisions - and ensure that all claimants can access information on how to appeal. We will also ensure that accessible information is available for those with special needs. •We will abolish the 84 day-rule which currently means that severely ill or disabled children needing more than 84 days in hospitalisation or medical treatment lose both DLA and carer's allowance. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All PIP claims to be granted initially, rather than claimants waiting for decisions •Additional evidence for PIP claims to be taken online, over the phone or via paper forms, unless claimant requests face-to-face interview •Review of DLA and PIP to examine the current stoppage of support during hospital stays, the appeals procedure and the PIP points assessment system.
Social Security	Top up or new benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction of a "Jobs Grant" to help those that have been out of work start a new job. £100 (or £250 for those with children) will be offered to young people who have been out of work for 6 months.. The SNP suggested this could help 6,000 young people a year as part of a drive to reduce youth unemployment to 40% by 2021. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Explore introducing a Young Carer's Grant •Scottish supplement to those not receiving full state pension

Social Security	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Scottish Social Security Agency to administer and deliver the benefits and payments being devolved. •Setting clear timescales for conducting assessments and making decisions in respect of the benefits being devolved. We will also establish a transparent and accessible appeals process. - with guaranteed timescales for decisions - and ensure that all claimants can access information on how to appeal. We will also ensure that accessible information is available for those with special needs. •We will introduce a Scottish Social Security Bill in the first year of the next parliament to take forward our early priorities for using the social security powers that are to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament. •We will protect the Scottish Welfare Fund which has already supported 178,000 households with grants totalling £81 million since it was established in 2013 •Restoration of housing benefit for 18-21 year olds if the UK government goes ahead with plans to remove it. •Investing £2.5 million a year in agencies that provide advice and support to help people access the benefits they are entitled to. •We will also ensure that accessible information is available for those with special needs. •Encouraging benefits take-up through a government led campaign and a programme of work with partners to increase take up by those who are eligible for benefits but not currently making claims. •Making better use of technology to simplify the process of applying for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will also implement and adequately resource the new carers' strategy, start a pilot of carers' leave for Scottish Government staff and support the development and provision of special health checks for carers by GPs. •We will help tackle youth homelessness through an emphasis on mediation and reconciliation with families. •We will support a dozen new centres across Scotland offering supported accommodation for young people, with direct access to advice and training. •We will require local authorities to monitor and account for the outcomes of young homeless people and take their responsibilities as 'corporate parents' seriously for young people leaving LA care and not permit transfers to B&Bs and temporary accommodation for care leavers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lift restrictions on pension funds that invest in local infrastructure e.g. social housing •Continue to campaign against benefit cuts, particularly those that lead to child poverty •Set up a Social Security Commission to explore and recommend the principles on which a Scottish benefits system should be established. •National strategy on preventing homelessness, including measures to empower tenants through better advice and support, including legal aid. •Provide appropriate support for those who have particular needs and are at risk of homelessness, such as women and children escaping domestic violence. •Allow rapid decisions to be made on applications to Scottish Welfare Fund •Support people left without income due to benefit delays
-----------------	---------	---	--	--

benefits and bring services closer to the people who use them.

- Establishing stakeholder forums to inform social security policy on an ongoing basis.
- Set up a fast track crisis grant fund for refugee families who settle here under Family Reunion rules.
- Employment and welfare programmes will be designed to take account of mental health conditions and bring an end to the difficulties people face with DWP.

Social Security	Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will also publish a Fairer Scotland Action Plan, bringing together all of our actions to tackle poverty and inequalities. The Action Plan will be informed by the recommendations of the Poverty Adviser - which we will implement in full - and the Fair Work Convention. •We will also re-appoint an Independent Adviser on Poverty and Inequality and establish a Poverty and Inequality Commission to provide expert advice to ministers on how to tackle poverty and measure and monitor the progress made across all portfolios and all parts of Scotland. •To help reduce costs, we will take action to tackle the poverty premium that many people on low incomes face. •We will provide resources for a new programme of financial health check-ups to help pensioners and those on low incomes make the most of their money and to secure the best energy tariffs and access to bank accounts. •We will convene a summit utility companies to challenge them to do more to provide the best rates available for low income households and reduce the need for prepayment meters which result in the poorest in society paying for the most for their energy. •We will publish a food sustainability plan aimed at ensuring everyone can feed themselves and their families and establish a £1 million a year Fair Food Fund to reduce reliance on emergency food provision. •We will ensure Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) fuel poverty measures are targeting those people living in poverty and examine 		
-----------------	---------	--	--	--

how we can use new flexibilities over the Warm Homes Discount and ECO to help with these aims.

- We will support young families on low incomes at the key stages of their children's lives with an expanded Maternity and Early Years Allowance to help tackle child poverty.

Social Security	Sure Start Maternity Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using new powers will replace the Sure Start Maternity Grant with an expanded Maternity and Early Years Allowance, which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increase payment on the birth of a first child from £500 to £600 for mothers on low incomes o Restore payments for second and subsequent children of £300. o Introduce payments of £250 for low income families at other stages in children's lives (when they begin nursery and when they start school). • Use powers over welfare foods to support the health of pregnant women and new mothers. • We will support young families on low incomes at the key stages of their children's lives with an expanded Maternity and Early Years Allowance to help tackle child poverty. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Sure Start Maternity Grant to increase payments, include second children and extend eligibility where possible to help provide financial stability for pregnant mothers at risk of poverty.
-----------------	----------------------------	---	--	--

Social Security	Universal Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Reform of Universal Credit - we will introduce changes to how Universal Credit is paid to ensure that vulnerable people are better supported.•We'll enable the housing element of UC to be paid direct to social housing landlords where a tenant requests it and also consider extending this to private renters.•We will also provide the option of UC payments made fortnightly instead of monthly, to ensure that people are better supported.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Allow Universal Credit to be split between partners and paid more frequently than once/month
-----------------	------------------	---	--	---

Social Security	Winter Fuel Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We'll also make payments early for those who are off-grid, so that they can take advantage of lower prices, making a huge difference to older people in remote areas. •We will tackle fuel poverty by improving energy efficiency, starting with an investment of £103 million in 2016-17 to deliver improvements for 14,000 more homes. We will prioritise the development of the district heating system and establish a loan fund for this purpose. •We'll extend the eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payment to families with children in receipt of the highest care component of DLA. •We will work with the stakeholders to review the fuel poverty action plan, including the fuel poverty eradication target •We will raise the profile of fuel poverty schemes that are available and include them in our benefit take up campaign. •We will ensure Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP) fuel poverty measures are targeting those people living in poverty and examine how we can use new flexibilities over the Warm Homes Discount and ECO to help with these aims. •We will introduce a Warm Houses Bill in the next parliament to support our work to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Design a Scottish fuel poverty scheme funded by the largest energy companies.
-----------------	----------------------	---	--	--

Sport	Discrimination in Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establish a £300,000 Sporting Equality Fund aimed at increasing the participation, engagement, and promotion of women in sport. •Work with sports' governing bodies to support efforts to end LGBTI discrimination in sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Repeal the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act and instead take forward the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeal the Offence Behaviours and Threatening Communications (in football) Act 2012 and work to tackle discrimination.
Sport	Funding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will use the additional money coming to Scotland as Barnett consequential from the proposed Sugar Tax spending to develop a new initiative to increase participation in sport and physical activity in Scotland. •Use sugar tax proceeds to support growth in sport and physical activity. •Establish an islands travel scheme for teams and individuals to compete in national events •We will continue to invest in sport and promote healthy lifestyles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Steady investment in sport to allow for greater community involvement and good quality facilities and trained staff. •Explore conditional funding for national sporting bodies to incentivise increased diversity of the athlete talent pool.

Sport	Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will implement the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework •Give greater recognition and weighting to community involvement and support in making future decisions about investment in community sport facilities. •Increase the number of Community Sports Hubs to 200 by 2020 •Work to bring major events to Scotland, and support the 2018 European Championship and the 2019 Solheim Cup •Examine how sport could be used in a system of 'social prescribing' for mental health patients •A network of regional sports centres around the country with a mixture of facilities for community use and to enable elite athletes to train in Scotland •Consider the outcome of the consultation on improving supporter involvement in football clubs, and will take the necessary action to give fans more influence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We need to ensure that the next generation has the chance to take part in sport at all levels. • We will use the additional money coming to Scotland as Barnett consequential from the proposed Sugar Tax spending to develop a new initiative to increase participation in sport and physical activity in Scotland. • Develop a long-term strategy to give access for all to opportunities appropriate for their ability and commitment to sport, whilst recognising that funding should be available for talented individuals to achieve their potential • Take steps to increase the opportunities for physical activities for those groups, such as teenage women, who drop out of sport; • Ensure everyone can access local, inclusive, quality sporting places, by making sure that facilities which receive public investment have a strategy for affordable access for community sports clubs • Develop sport, tourism and culture activities around all major sporting and cultural events; • Make sure the opportunities exist after major events for people to take up the sport or activity at a grassroots level; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Work with Local Authorities to create safe and exciting outdoor spaces - more green spaces, more walking and cycling routes, accessible sports centres and more access to wild land. •Support the expansion of Scotland's sports clubs through support for volunteering, accessible facilities and funding to enable more women, LGBT+ people, minority ethnic communities and disabled people to participate. •Continue the Fans First campaign to encourage greater take-up of fan owned sports clubs
-------	---------------	---	---	--

Tax	Air Passenger Duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•When the Power to do so is devolved, we will reduce the overall burden of APD by 50%, with the reduction beginning in April 2018 and delivered in full by the end of the next parliament. APD will be abolished entirely when resources allow .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We will retain Air Passenger Duty, recognising that it helps make sure aviation is taxed in the same way as other forms of transport and can help fund green initiatives.• Retain Air Passenger Duty, with the present lifeline exemptions, given the climate change risks of unlimited expansion in aviation;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Green MSPs will fight Scottish Government austerity and campaign to retain Air Passenger Duty.
-----	--------------------	--	--	---

Tax	Business Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of business rates to be chaired by Ken Barclay (former RBC Chair). Any changes would be revenue neutral. • Small business bonus scheme to be continued for the next five years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support a full scale review of business rates to consider the fundamentals of the system- such as the current penalties businesses face when they improve their premises or install renewable energy machinery - and the difficulties faced by some start up companies. We want businesses to have a strong role in shaping the new system. • Give back to councils the powers to set local domestic and business taxation, and remove the financial penalties used by the present government to exert control. This will give local councils control of more than 50 per cent of their revenues and give them a real stake in economic progress; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make vacant and derelict land liable for non-domestic rates • Will advocate replacing non-domestic rating with a system of site value rating commonly know as land value tax. • Propose to give councils the power to set the rate for 50% of the assessed value of non-domestic property and review the system of reliefs that currently apply. • We will fight to end tax reliefs which keep homes and land out of use. Scotland's 11,000 hectares of vacant and derelict land should be liable for non-domestic rates. This would raise £250m a year for investment and encourage development on the land.
-----	----------------	---	--	--

Tax	Council tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Freeze the Council tax for a ninth year until April 2017. From 2017 onwards, we will cap annual increases at 3 per cent. •Formally consult local government on the potential assignments of devolved income tax to councils. •We will increase the child allowance within the council tax reduction scheme by 25 per cent, benefiting 77,000 households by an average of £173 per year or around £15 per month. This boost for low-income families will help nearly 140,000 children across Scotland. •We will also make the council tax fairer by changing how the rate for more expensive properties in bands E, F, G and H is calculated and asking people in these bands to pay more. The average increase for Band E will be £105 a year and for bands F, G and H the average increases will be £207, £335 and £517 respectively. •Households living in higher banded houses but with an income less than £25,000 will be exempted from these increases through an extension of the council reduction scheme. •We will increase the child allowance within the council tax reduction scheme by 25 per cent, benefitting 77,000 households by an average of £173 per year, helping nearly 140,000 children across Scotland. •From April 2017 local authorities will have the discretion to increase council tax by up to 3% pa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give back to councils the powers to set local domestic and business taxation, and remove the financial penalties used by the present government to exert control. This will give local councils control of more than 50 per cent of their revenues and give them a real stake in economic progress; •We support a fairer system of local taxation to replace the Council tax. We are attracted by the economic and social benefits that could be brought about by a system of land value tax - based on the value of the land. It will be possible to consider and evaluate further this proposal for domestic properties. Further work to this proposal should take place in the 2016-21 parliamentary session. Substantial proposals for change will only be enacted in the 2016-2021 parliamentary session if they enjoy wide cross party and public support. •To accelerate this we will speed up the process to map all of Scotland's land ownership. •We will also make sure robust transition arrangements are in place, alongside measures to protect people with low incomes from adverse changes. •We will recognise the diverse needs of every local authority and will make sure they get at least 90% of the average support offered by central government to support their services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace council tax over 5 years with a Residential Property Tax (RPT) for individual properties. Would be applied at a rate of 1% on annually updated values, with a tax free housing allowance of £10,000 for every home which would raise an additional £490m for local services. •Councils would have powers to vary this tax locally. •A tax reduction scheme would be available for low-income households and eligible households could reduce or defer payments as they choose. • It would mean a property valued at £150,000 would be liable for RPT of £1,500 but with a £10,000 tax-free allowance the owners would only pay £1,400.
-----	-------------	--	---	---

Tax	Income tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Freeze the basic rate of income tax. •Freeze the higher rate threshold in real terms in 2017/18 and increase it by a maximum of inflation until 2021/22. We will set out the exact level of the higher rate threshold each year in the budget process. •Freeze the additional rate in 2017/18 and consider raising it to 45p to 50p from 2018/19 onwards. •Will ensure the personal allowance reaches £12,750 in 2021/22. While the personal allowance is a reserved matter, if UKG has not increased the personal allowance to £12,750 by 2021/22, an SNP Government in Scotland would introduce a 0% band between the level of personal allowance and £12,750. •Higher rate threshold frozen in real terms, increased by CPI to £43,387 in 2017 with increases limited to CPI in subsequent years. •Our income tax plans mean that we will have at least £1.2 billion extra to invest in our NHS and public services over the lifetime of the next parliament. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase income tax by one penny across all bands from 01/04/2016 (penny for education) •This will raise £505 million in 2017-18 and £520 million the year after, according to the latest estimate from HMRC. •Introduce a zero-rate tax band from 2017. •We will index the Higher Rate threshold with inflation. If the opportunity arises to offer future income tax cuts our priority will be to increase the starting point for income tax in Scotland by creating a new zero-rate band, rather than make tax cuts for the well-paid through a more rapid increase in the Higher Rate threshold. We will ask the Scottish Fiscal Commission to carry out the detailed work to assess when this can be done. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •60p rate of income tax to apply to those earning more than £150,000 (or 60%) and a new 43p rate (or 43%) starting at £43,000. The current Basic Rate of 20% would be replaced by two bands - 18% for the first £7,500 of income above the personal allowance and 22% for income above £19,000 i.e. 18p and 22p rates for those earning £11,500 to £19,000 and £19,000 to £43,000 respectively. Switching to this system would raise at least an additional £331m to invest in public services. • Use Parliament's tax varying powers to reduce the central block grant and pass responsibility for raising that revenue to local authorities. <p>We believe councils should have a basket of tax options available to them - for e.g. raising funds through an overnight visitor levy or local sales taxes.</p>
-----	------------	--	---	---

Tax	Land and Buildings Transaction Tax	•We will also continue to support first time buyers by maintaining the progressive Land & Building Transaction Tax (LBTT) which reduced tax for those at the lower end of the housing market.	•We do not propose any substantive change to Land and Buildings Transaction Tax. This is a new tax and should have the chance to become established.	•Advocate that Land and Buildings Transaction Tax is rolled into local property taxation.
Tourism	Events		• Support Event Scotland to secure major sporting events;	
Tourism	Promotion/Marketing of Scotland	•We will work with partners to promote the South of Scotland as a visitor destination.		
Transport	Air	•We will also maintain the existing air discount scheme for islands at 50 percent.	• Reintroduce the Air Discount Scheme for business travel from the islands;	•We will campaign to provide fast rail alternatives where possible and for airline tax to represent the industry's environmental cost. •Ferries and air travel are a lifeline for many island communities. Green MSPs will campaign to keep ferry services in public hands, support the expansion of the Road Equivalent Tariff between Mainland to Orkney, and work to ensure contracts deliver highest level of reliability for islands' air passengers. •Green MSPs will fight Scottish Government austerity and campaign to retain Air Passenger Duty.

Transport	Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will bring forward a Transport Bill to improve bus services, enhance and improve the role of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner and wider road works regulation and to enable and enforce responsible parking. •In the first year of the new Parliament, we will introduce a Bill which will require all public vehicles carrying children to and from school to be fitted with seatbelts. •We will support community transport initiatives to train and qualify more minibus drivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Retain the concessionary bus pass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Subsidised bus passes for people on low incomes, the elderly, disabled and unemployed. -Support the re-regulation of buses to stop companies 'cherry-picking' profitable routes and leaving some communities stranded. Regulations should include a minimum level of service guarantee; requirements to invest in making services fully accessible to all disabled people and parents; increasing energy efficient vehicles, such as electric or bio waste buses; and a renovation programme for bus stations to make them attractive places. -Support campaigns to extend the free bus pass to unpaid carers on benefits provide enhanced support to community transport schemes.
-----------	-----	--	---	---

Transport	Ferry Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Invest in quality ferry services. •Keep ferry fares as low as possible. •We will protect the Road Equivalent Tariff to all routes in the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry services network and take action to reduce fares on ferry services to Orkney and Shetland. •We are committed to maintaining RET on all current island ferry routes and also to reducing ferry fares on services to Orkney and Shetland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the support for ferry routes serving the Northern Isles, including a cut of 50 per cent in ferry fares between the Northern Isles and the mainland, matching the fare cuts recently enacted on the West Coast and reversing the decline in support for the northern routes; 	<p>Ferries and air travel are a lifeline for many island communities. Green MSPs will campaign to keep ferry services in public hands, support the expansion of the Road Equivalent Tariff between Mainland to Orkney, and work to ensure contracts deliver highest level of reliability for islands' air passengers.</p>
-----------	----------------	---	--	---

Transport	Rail	<p>Investment plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •£5 billion in rail improvements - including upgrades to the Aberdeen/ Inverness line and the Highland mainline and modernisation of the Glasgow Subway •We will also examine the feasibility of extending the Borders Railway to Hawick and Carlisle. •We will support and promote the Scottish National Trail which links up Scotland's great trails network •Early in the next Parliament, we will take steps to ensure that a public sector operator is able to bid for a future rail contract and that there is a public sector body able to do so. We will use our new powers to enable this to happen. •By the end of 2016, we will have electrified the Edinburgh to Glasgow route and redeveloped Queen Street station and created the Edinburgh Gateway rail-tram interchange. • We will also invest in electrifying the Stirling-Dunblane- Alloa line, the Glasgow -Edinburgh-Shotts route, complete the redevelopment of Dundee station, support shorter and more frequent journeys between Aberdeen and Inverness, improve the Highland and Aberdeen mainlines and invest in redeveloped station hubs at Aberdeen, Inverness, Perth, Stirling and Motherwell. • We will maintain the rail route to Stranraer, maintaining lower fares on the route, conduct a feasibility study into extending the Waverley route via Hawick to Carlisle and make progress on improvements to the East Coast mainline, including examining the case for a station at Reston in Berwickshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will use a review of the Infrastructure Investment Plan project pipeline, together with joint work with Network Rail on their RAB investment programme, to advance our priorities for rail infrastructure investment to the North East and Highlands and in active travel. •Continue to make the case for a High Speed Rail network that covers the whole of the UK, with continued progress to a route through to Scotland from London; • Conduct a feasibility study for extending the Borders' Railway from Tweedbank to Hawick and Carlisle, along with other potential route re-opening opportunities; 	<p>Bring the railway back into public hands at the end of the current contract. Bringing railways back into public hands could reduce fares, improve links with other transport and ensure that the service is fully accessible to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support creating Wi-Fi and 3G coverage on all intercity public transport, including in stations. -Reopening of old routes, such as to Methil and Leven -Dualling the Highland mainline, -Switch from road freight to rail delivery will also be targets -Securing faster journey times to London.
-----------	------	--	---	--

We will also examine the case for an extension of the Stirling-Alloa rail line to Dunfermline by upgrading the existing Longannet freight line.

Transport	Road	<p>Our investment plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •£1.4 billion in improvements to the road network - including work on dualling the A9 and A96, bypassing Maybole on the A77 and improving other sections south of Girvan, further improvements to the A75, and exploring how to better connect Dumfries and the M74. •We will also prioritise improvements to the road network that connects the east of Scotland and Scottish Borders with England - the A7, A1 and A68. •We will look to bring forward planned investment to improve road links to the Cairnryan ferry hub by 2020. •We will maintain the Road Equivalent Tariff discount scheme on Hebrides and lifeline ferry routes, continue the air discount scheme currently in operation for passengers and also protect lifeline air services. • We will refresh the Switched On Scotland Electric Vehicle Roadmap which was first published in 2013. •We will continue to invest in an annual road safety programme. We will refresh this programme and continue to consider rolling out programmes in communities blighted by accidents and unsafe driving. •We will report on performance of the A9 in particular four times a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make strategic investments to improve roads safety and quality, for example taking forward plans to improve the A82, A9 and A96 amongst others; • Encourage the extension of 20mph speeds in village, town and city centres; • Take forward the Cleaner Air For Scotland strategy and, as a matter of urgency, support weekly monitoring and enforcement action at the ten worst streets for pollution in Scotland to reduce the number of high-polluting vehicles on these roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mix of public consultation and participatory budgeting could ensure road users can identify and help fix unsafe routes and junctions. -Measures such as 20mph speed limits in residential areas. -Better street lighting and lengthened crossing times at pedestrian crossings. -Support a change in the law to 'presumed liability' to protect the most vulnerable road users. This ensures that when road accidents do happen, insurance companies pay compensation to casualties unless it can be proven that the casualty was at fault. -Pedestrians and cyclists with additional vulnerabilities (children, older people or disabled people) to automatically be compensated. -Some of the funding set aside for new roads to be redirected and channelled into maintaining our existing routes. -All new road infrastructure should undergo a triple bottom line evaluation, ensuring that projects deliver tangible benefits to the economy and society and the environment is respected, would support any new infrastructure that meets these requirements. -Work with the Scottish Government to legislate against parking on pavements to improve safety for pedestrians, particularly vulnerable people, such as the disabled, elderly and children, and reduce damage to pavements. -Support the rollout of low carbon vehicles, such as electric cars. -Encourage the development and expansion of car sharing schemes across the country. -Push for the creation of a Car Share Fund to help local authorities set up such groups and establish fleets of low-carbon vehicles. -Support measures to offer drivers with minor speeding offences a day-long course in speed awareness, in lieu of receiving points (currently face a £100 fine and 3 points on their licence.)
-----------	------	--	--	---

Transport	Smart Cards		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commit to a contactless payment system for travel across Scotland, making public transport easy and giving automatic access to the lowest fares• Use the power of the Scottish Government through its contract payments to bus companies, and the potential new power of a public-sector operator for Scotrail, to force the pace on development of the contactless payment system, and for integrated transport;	
-----------	-------------	--	--	--

<p>Transport</p>	<p>Sustainable Transport including cycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will refresh the Switched On Scotland Electric Vehicle Roadmap which was first published in 2013. • We will implement our national walking strategy and we are determined to meet our vision of 10 per cent of everyday journeys being made by bike by 2020. • We will review the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) to explore what more we can do, including on extending cycling training “bikeability” schemes for the young. And we will work to improve the integration between active and public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will use a review of the Infrastructure Investment Plan project pipeline, together with joint work with Network Rail on their RAB investment programme, to advance our priorities for rail infrastructure investment to the North East and Highlands and in active travel. • We will help build a low-carbon transport system for Scotland through a commitment to public transport, expansion of provision for electric vehicles and active travel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the continued development of infrastructure for electric vehicles, including shore power for ferries; • Extend the benefits of electric vehicles into remote areas of Scotland, supporting the pilot project in the Highlands and incentivising island communities to use electric vehicles fed by power generated locally from renewables to cut the import of expensive hydrocarbons. This could include “scrappage” grants to help islanders convert to hybrid vehicles to replace old, polluting cars; • Increase the share of the transport budget that is spent on cycling and active transport by adding £20 million of capital spending; • Support safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists with more dedicated and segregated cycle lanes • Revise the current Cycling by Design guidelines to reflect international best practice and increase their authority to make them core national standards, ensuring safe provision for cyclists and pedestrians is built into the road system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cycle hubs at bus and train stations. -Propose a radical boost to this funding. 10% of the total transport budget would improve existing routes and making them safer, encouraging more people to walk and cycle. This would bring us more into line with other northern European countries, which have far higher numbers of trips made on foot or by bike and reduce air pollution which is estimated to cause over 2,500 deaths per year in Scotland. -A mix of public consultation and participatory budgeting could ensure road users can identify and help fix unsafe routes and junctions and we will call for measures such as 20mph speed limits in residential areas, cycle hubs at bus and train stations, better street lighting and lengthened crossing times at pedestrian crossings. -Work with local authorities to implement a rolling programme to improve bike paths and pedestrian routes whilst doing other routine road safety work. -We also want to give every child in Scotland the opportunity to undertake on-road cycle training and will work with councils to do this.
------------------	--	--	--	---