



Scottish Government  
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# A fairer, greener Scotland

Programme for  
Government 2021-22



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St Andrew's House  
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ISBN: 978-1-80201-176-0

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Published by The Scottish Government, September 2021

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Sturgeon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

## First Minister's Foreword

**Over the last 18 months, the world, and our own individual places within it, have changed immeasurably. While the pandemic may have defined our lives for those dark and difficult months, the Scottish Government is determined that it does not define our future. This Programme for Government represents an important moment for Scotland to secure a brighter future.**

Clearly, COVID-19 continues to be part of our daily lives. Despite the progress we have made, our position remains fragile: mass vaccination has significantly weakened the link between a concerning increase in new cases, and the serious harm to people's health that poses, but it has not broken that link. That risks people's health, but it also risks putting our health service under further pressure – at a time when many staff have been working flat out for 18 months, and when it is trying to catch up with a backlog of other procedures.

Since the start of the pandemic, “protect the NHS” has been one of our key messages – it is still something that all of us need to bear in mind. We cannot rule anything out in the midst of a pandemic – none of us want to go backwards to even limited restrictions, but nor can we ignore any surge in cases and serious illness.

We must all remain vigilant, play our part, and protect the progress we have made – while retaining our cautious but determined move towards recovery. Our economy is predicted to return to pre-pandemic levels in the next 12 months. We are preparing for COP26 in Glasgow, where the steps that we must take, in Scotland and around the world, to reach net zero and protect our future, will be centre stage. And we have a unique chance to ensure that prosperity and opportunity are shared across our society by tackling long-standing challenges in our communities.

That means prioritising the recovery of our precious health and social care services – rebuilding capacity, and establishing a new form of care which people can access in a way, place, and time which works for them. It requires us to redouble efforts to tackle

the inequalities that continue to blight our society – eradicating poverty and discrimination, and ensuring opportunity is never limited by economic or social circumstance. And it means securing an economic recovery which is green and fair – for everyone and in every part of Scotland – and delivers our ambition to become a net-zero nation. Importantly, we will do that built on a new politics, which puts Scotland's future in Scotland's hands.

When the people of Scotland elected this government to a historic fourth consecutive term, we pledged to work across boundaries to build a better nation. The challenges facing Scotland, and the world, have rarely been greater – but too often politics can seem small in response. Now is not the time for petty division or retreating to political comfort zones – that would do a disservice to the sacrifices people have made, and the recovery we need to secure. It is a time for reaching out and finding the best solutions to the toughest of problems, starting with how we cooperate in the Scottish Parliament – not to find the lowest common denominator, but to raise the bar higher.

This Programme for Government embeds the cooperation agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green party – a historic moment for Scotland's politics – as a central part of the Scottish Government's whole programme, while recognising there are areas where we will disagree, doing so openly and transparently.

It is an agreement that recognises the need, and our commitment, to use every tool at our disposal to secure a green economic recovery, investing in restoring our environment and the green technologies and industries of the future to create jobs and build a prosperous Scotland – backed by at least £500 million.

But it is also an agreement which recognises that the best way to secure our long-term recovery is with the full powers of an independent nation, and the democratic mandate from the people of Scotland to pursue that opportunity. We will take forward a referendum within the term of this Parliament and, if the pandemic permits, in the first half of the Parliament.

As we look to the future, we have laid solid foundations within our first 100 days in government – delivering 80 bold, ambitious and transformative measures that will help to improve the lives of people across Scotland.

We have continued to lead Scotland through the pandemic – easing restrictions, when safe and appropriate, and ensuring every adult has been offered the COVID-19 vaccine. We have supported our NHS and care services, launching a new NHS Recovery Plan backed by a commitment of more than £1 billion of targeted investment, setting out key actions to address backlogs and increase capacity, and consulting on the creation of the National Care Service.

We have backed our economy and created jobs – setting up a new Green Jobs Workforce Academy and providing £45 million through local partnerships to provide training and employer recruitment incentives, for young people, £25 million to help small and medium businesses access digital technology and enhance their digital skills, £10 million to support local businesses and high streets, and £25 million for the recovery of our tourism sector.

We have helped children, families and young people – funding the recruitment of 1,500 additional teachers and support assistants, introduced free school meals for more primary school children, abolished fees for instrumental tuition and practical subjects, and made up for lost opportunities through a £20 million summer fund. We have also agreed the first allocation of funding to councils for the refurbishment of play parks.

We have taken new steps toward tackling the climate crisis – setting up pilots to test how we will roll out free bikes to school age children who cannot afford them, action which can also improve health outcomes, and moving closer to decarbonising our public transport, as part of a green transport revolution by working to remove the majority of diesel buses from public transport by the end of 2023, and appointing a range of international experts to advise on keeping Scotland at the forefront of tackling the climate emergency and ecological decline.



And we have backed people – introducing legislation to double payments for carers later this year, delivering 40,000 digital devices to low income children and families, tackling the digital divide, and providing £100 as part of the £520 we will give low-income families this, and every, year ahead of the rollout of Scottish Child Payment to under 16's.

These steps are just the beginning. Across the next year – and this entire Parliament – our programme builds on these immediate actions to ensure continued transformational change to build a fairer country and secure a sustainable recovery.

Leading Scotland safely through the pandemic remains our priority – and as we maintain that resilience against COVID-19 and other pressures, we will also increase our focus on recovery. We will shortly publish a COVID Recovery Strategy, bringing together the actions we will take across government and with partners in the next year to address the impact of the pandemic on those hardest hit in our country. It will take a focused approach to support for families and households on low incomes, by providing enhanced training and employment support for those furthest from the labour market and setting out how we will support the wellbeing of children and young people, who we know have been significantly affected by the pandemic.

We will drive the recovery of our NHS – not just to its pre-pandemic level but beyond. This programme commits to record funding levels across our health and social care services, with an increase of at least £2.5 billion by the end of this Parliament – from investment in new and upgraded facilities, and increasing capacity, to reforming the system so everyone gets the treatment they need as quickly as possible, in new and innovative ways, and closer to where they live. And it commits to working quickly to establish the single greatest public service reform since the establishment of the NHS – the creation of a National Care Service – ensuring the voices of those who work in and use the service are at its heart. The legislation for a National Care Service will be introduced this parliamentary year.

As part of this, while the pandemic has exacerbated existing health inequalities and challenges, we know that there are serious wider and indirect challenges we must face up to and tackle – chief among them being ensuring our collective mental wellbeing and addressing the national tragedy of drugs and alcohol related deaths. We will invest £250 million to tackle the drugs death emergency over the course of this Parliament, ensuring better outreach, treatment, rehabilitation, and aftercare services in every local authority, and move quickly to guarantee people access to same-day treatment and a wider range of treatment options, so they can get help when they feel ready. We will also increase mental health spend, with a specific focus on tackling waiting times and support for children and young people, and making services more local and accessible.

As we renew and recover, we will ensure that we tackle the wider, damaging inequalities in our society, so that everyone can have a brighter future. We will drive forward a national mission to end child poverty – rolling out Scottish Child Payment to children under 16 by the end of 2022 and we will set out, through our spending review, the route to doubling Scottish Child Payment to £20 per week, per child as quickly as possible during this Parliament. We will also continue in our efforts to persuade the UK Government of the importance of retaining the £20 uplift to Universal Credit, the removal of which would impact over 450,000 families in Scotland.

We will ensure that everyone has a safe, warm place to call home – taking forward an ambitious programme of affordable housebuilding, eradicating homelessness and rough sleeping, and strengthening rights for people in the rented sector.

Central to this mission is ensuring that we can live in cleaner and greener homes and communities. We will take forward an ambitious programme of £1.8 billion of investment over the course of this Parliament to make our homes easier and greener to heat – progressing our commitment to decarbonise 1 million homes by 2030, and eradicate poor energy efficiency as a driver of

fuel poverty. We will drive forward our mission to decarbonise public transport and connect our communities – on the mainland and across our islands – and spend at least £320 million, or 10% of the total transport budget, on active travel by 2024-25, so that it becomes a green, safe and healthy alternative for many more people.

As we rebuild, we are pushing forward with an ambitious 10 year agenda of economic transformation to help seize and realise Scotland's potential. We will work towards an economy that is greener, by investing in the skills, technologies and jobs which will help secure a just transition to net zero; fairer, boosting workers' pay and voices, and directing support to those who may be at greatest risk of poverty or discrimination; and inclusive, ensuring we invest in and support our local communities – across rural and urban Scotland – to shape their futures.

In the year of COP26 – being hosted in our great city of Glasgow – we will rise to the other global challenge we face, taking the necessary action to stem climate change. We will do so in a way which ensures we grasp the opportunities to put a net-zero Scotland at the heart of our economic prosperity. We will invest in opportunities for people to access new, good and green jobs – including through a £500 million Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray, a £100 million Green Jobs Fund, and £500 million to support the jobs of the future, including upskilling and reskilling people to access those opportunities. We will work to ensure that no one is left behind – establishing a just transition plan for every sector and region, and promoting a net-zero economy which provides opportunities for all. We will also protect our natural and marine environments for generations to come – reversing ecological decline, and ensuring nature-based solutions are central to our climate obligations.

While the impacts of the pandemic have been difficult for everyone, we must recognise the particular hardships and burdens placed on children and young people. Not only have they missed out on many of the rites of passage older generations took for granted, they are faced with

an uncertain future and the prospect of long-term scarring in their employment prospects. Across all of our work, we will focus on ensuring young people have a brighter future – where, from day one, they have the support they need to flourish.

We will continue to invest in our Young Person's Guarantee – providing a job, a place in education or training, or a formal volunteering opportunity – which, with investment of £60 million last year and up to £70 million this year, will provide at least 24,000 new and enhanced jobs, skills and training opportunities for young people. We will direct £1 billion towards tackling the poverty related attainment gap, support the recruitment of 3,500 additional teachers and 500 classroom assistants, and take forward an ambitious programme of education reforms to create the very best chances for every young person. We will ensure young people, and their families, don't face cost barriers when it comes to the school meals they can have, the subjects they can choose, or the trips and activities they can participate in. And we will protect and enhance children's rights – with specific support for those with experience of the criminal justice system or at particular risk of harm, giving them access to a "Bairns' Hoose" – and continuing our work to "Keep The Promise", so that young people who experience the care system grow up loved and valued, with the same opportunities as their peers.

This programme establishes our clear priority to support Scotland out of the pandemic, and towards a better future. We have faced significant challenges in the last 18 months – we will still face challenges to come. But out of that great challenge, a better Scotland – playing its part in building a better world – must be our goal.

As we rebuild our society, we will grasp the opportunity to ensure that the sacrifices we have all made will find purpose in the fairer, more just, prosperous, and equal Scotland that we create in response.

### Among the actions set out in this Programme for Government, we will:

#### **ESTABLISH A CARING NATION: setting out a new vision for health and social care**

- **Increase frontline health spend each year so it is at least £2.5 billion higher by 2026-27, and increase primary care spend by 25%** over the course of this Parliament. We will ensure that facilities support the delivery of world class care and increased capacity by **investing £10 billion in health infrastructure over the next decade**, to renew and replace health facilities across Scotland and to deliver our National Treatment Centres.
- Undertake **the single biggest public service reform since the founding of the NHS – the creation of a National Care Service**, following the consultation we launched in our first 100 days. By June 2022, we will bring forward legislation for its establishment.
- **Improve national wellbeing with increased investment in mental health – at least 25% over this Parliament:** This year, we will provide £120 million specifically to support the recovery and transformation of services, with a renewed focus on prevention and early intervention, and full implementation of the National CAMHS Service Specification, clearing historic waiting lists.
- **Tackle the drugs death emergency with £250 million investment over this Parliament, ensuring better outreach, treatment, rehabilitation, and aftercare services in every local authority:** This year we will ensure people have access to same-day treatment and a wider range of treatment options, and provide a rolling guarantee of £18 million for grassroots organisations to help people in their communities.

#### **CREATE A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY: supporting young people and promoting a fairer and more equal society**

- **Drive forward a national mission to end child poverty – rolling out Scottish Child Payment to children under 16 by the end of 2022 and doubling it to £20 per week as quickly as possible thereafter:** This year and next – ahead of full rollout – we will provide a £520 'bridging payment' for every child in receipt of free school meals.
- **Starting this year, invest a further £1 billion over the Parliament to tackle the poverty related attainment gap, and support the recruitment of 3,500 additional teachers and 500 classroom assistants:** This will be over and above the 1,400 extra teachers recruited during the pandemic. Starting next year, we will undertake a refresh of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, and continue work to implement the recent OECD recommendations on curriculum and assessment.
- **Take action to reduce the costs of the school day, and ensure children can access the subjects and opportunities they want regardless of family income:** This summer, we have already abolished music, arts and core curriculum charges, and provided funding to expand free school lunches to primary 4 and 5 pupils. Across this Parliament, we will give every child a device and a connection to get online, and ensure every primary and secondary pupil can go on curriculum related trips and residential.
- **Build a new system of wraparound childcare for school age children.** This year, we will publish a 5-year delivery plan, undertake an evaluation of pilot projects to inform full implementation, and establish a public panel, including parents, carers, children and young people.
- **Expand free early learning and childcare to 1 and 2 year olds – starting in this Parliament with children from low-income households.**
- **Starting this year, invest £100 million to support frontline services and focus on prevention of violence against women and girls from school onward.**



### **SECURE A NET ZERO NATION: ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, restoring nature and enhancing our climate resilience, in a just and fair way**

- **Build a net zero economy that is fair for all, and create opportunities for new, good and green jobs, introducing Just Transition plans for all sectors and regions:** We will start with a plan for the energy sector. We have also formally accepted the recent recommendations of the Just Transition Commission, and set out how we will implement these.
- **Provide at least £1.8 billion over the course of this Parliament to make our homes easier and greener to heat, and progress our commitment to decarbonise 1 million homes by 2030:** We will provide increased funding this year for home energy programmes and measures to reduce poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty, and £30 million for heat and energy efficiency projects in social housing.
- **Ensure that at least £320 million or 10% of the total transport budget goes on active travel by 2024-25, ensuring greener, cleaner and better connected communities:** Informed by pilots already set up, we will start to provide free bikes to school age children who cannot afford them, make loans and grants available to get old bikes out of storage and back on roads, and develop 'active freeways', connecting city and town centres to outlying neighbourhoods.

### **CREATE AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE AND PLACES: putting sustainability, wellbeing and fair work at the heart of our economic transformation**

- **Continue to deliver our Young Person's Guarantee – providing a job or a place in education or training, or a formal volunteering opportunity for every young person:** Backed by up to £70 million this year, in addition to £60 million last year, this will provide at least 24,000 new and enhanced opportunities for young people, across a range of sectors and projects.
- **Invest in a just transition to a low-carbon economy, for people and businesses, including a £500 million Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray and a £100 million Green Jobs Fund:** This year, we will make the first payments from the Green Jobs Fund, and implement a skills guarantee, helping workers in carbon-intensive sectors to upskill, reskill, and transition to the green jobs of the future.
- **Invest an additional £500 million to support the new, good and green jobs of the future, including upskilling and reskilling people to access those:** This year, we are providing £20 million for the National Transition Training Fund, helping over 20,000 people to upskill and reskill.
- **Provide £100 million over this Parliament in a range of programmes to increase the digital capacity and capability of business:** Already providing an additional £25 million investment in the DigitalBoost fund providing grants and support to help SMEs get access to the right digital skills and equipment, and continuing to implement the recommendations of Logan review.

### **LIVING BETTER: supporting thriving, resilient and diverse communities**

- **Give everyone a safe, warm place to call home, delivering 110,000 affordable homes across Scotland by 2032, investing an additional £50 million over the Parliament to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, and strengthening tenants' rights in the rented sector:** This year, we will provide over £12 million to take forward the Ending Homelessness Together action plan, and bring forward consultations on our Rented Sector Strategy and a new Homelessness Prevention Duty. We will also begin work to design and implement an effective national system of rent controls.
- **Deliver a revolution in children's rights, including across the justice system:** Alongside work to #KeepThePromise to care experienced young people, we have started work this year to ensure access to a "Bairns' Hoose" by 2025: a child-friendly environment providing trauma informed recovery, improving children's experience of the criminal justice system, and preventing them from being re-traumatised.

### **ESTABLISH SCOTLAND IN THE WORLD: championing democratic principles, at home and abroad**

- **We intend to secure a referendum on Scottish independence:** This will be within the current parliamentary session, on a specific date determined by the Scottish Parliament. If the coronavirus crisis has passed, our intention is for the referendum to be within the first half of the five-year parliamentary session.

## Executive Summary

While **leading Scotland out of the pandemic remains our foremost priority** – continuing our mass vaccination programme and preparing for a booster campaign in the autumn – this sits alongside rebuilding a stronger, more resilient health and care system centred on people; renewing our drive to eradicate child poverty and improve living standards; ending Scotland's contribution to climate change; and building a wellbeing economy which secures sustainable, inclusive growth for everyone, in all parts of Scotland.

The pandemic has strengthened our determination to ensure we do not just return to the status quo, but use this opportunity to secure a greener, fairer and more prosperous recovery, recognising that we cannot do it alone. In the same way that our response to the pandemic was a collective endeavour, so too must be our response to the challenges and opportunities before us. To support that, **we will shortly publish a COVID Recovery Strategy**, setting out our shared vision with Local Government to address the structural inequalities made worse by COVID-19.

Delivering that recovery requires an immediate response. Building on the progress made in the first 100 days, this Programme for Government defines our response to the challenges ahead, and the better tomorrow we want to secure, across six long-term priorities, and delivers on our promises to the people of Scotland:

### 1. A CARING NATION: setting out a new vision for health and social care

Recovery from COVID-19 across all of society is the Scottish Government's first and most pressing priority, in particular for those who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. As such, we will strengthen our health service and ensure it is equipped to continue managing COVID-19, support our recovery from it, and address longer term population health challenges. We will provide record investment in mental health and reduce the unacceptably high level of drug deaths in Scotland. We will pursue a radical new vision for social care that meets both our nation's changing demographic and the needs of individuals. And we will grasp the opportunity to address many of the deep-rooted health inequalities COVID-19 has exposed.

#### We will:

- **Increase frontline health spending by 20%** over this Parliament – providing at least £2.5 billion in additional funding by 2026-27. We will deliver the first increase through the 2022-23 budget.
- **Drive forward our NHS Recovery Plan** – investing £29 million this year to provide an additional 78,000 diagnostic procedures, and increase inpatient and day case activity by 10% in 2022-23 and outpatient activity by 10% by 2025-26.
- **Support our health and social care staff to look after their own mental health and wellbeing.** As an immediate step we are investing £8 million in a package of support this year, including the ongoing development of the National Wellbeing Hub, National Wellbeing Helpline, and psychological interventions and therapies for staff.
- **Invest £10 billion over the next decade to replace and refurbish Scotland's health facilities**, including £400 million in a new network of National Treatment Centres to increase elective care capacity. Work will start this year on two additional Centres in Cumbernauld and Ayrshire.

- **Increase primary care funding by 25% over this Parliament**, with half of all frontline health spend going on community health services – ensuring people get care at a time and in a place and way which best suits them. This includes funding to abolish NHS dentistry charges for young people aged under 26 within our first 100 days.
- **Establish a National Care Service**, backed by at least 25% more investment in social care over this Parliament. By June 2022, we will bring forward the legislation to enable its creation.
- **Tackle the drugs death emergency by investing £250 million** over this Parliament, focused on community-based interventions, quick access to treatment and expansion of residential rehabilitation. This year we will ensure people have access to same-day treatment and a wider range of treatment options.
- **Increase direct mental health investment by at least 25%** over this Parliament, ensuring that at least 10% of frontline NHS spend goes towards mental health and 1% goes on child and adolescent services.

## **2. A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY: supporting young people and promoting a fairer and more equal society**

While we have taken bold action in recent years towards our aim of a truly equal nation, the pandemic has exacerbated the inequality in society. People from Minority Ethnic communities, disabled people, lone parents and low-income households have disproportionately borne the negative impacts of the pandemic. Poverty remains driven by deep-rooted issues that start at birth and have lifelong consequences, and too many children, through no fault of their own, miss out on experiences and opportunities because of it. Our Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan established a clear evidence base for the drivers of poverty, across employment, living costs, and household incomes, and we will continue to take forward a national mission to end child poverty focused on addressing those.

### **We will:**

- **Extend Scottish Child Payment to children under 16 by the end of 2022, and double it to £20 per week, per child as quickly as possible thereafter.** Final decisions about timing and increases will be considered in the spending review and taken in the relevant budget. We will actively seek ways to accelerate the implementation, including considering options for staged increases.
- **Provide immediate support to children and young people through Scottish Child Payment bridging payments of £520 in both 2021 and 2022.** These will be paid quarterly for children in receipt of free school meals on the basis of low income, ahead of full roll-out of Scottish Child payment to under 16's.
- **Make an extra payment of Carer's Allowance Supplement** this year, subject to Parliament passing legislation. Following the necessary pausing of work during the pandemic, we will also develop and launch the remaining devolved benefits, including the new Scottish Carer's Assistance.

- **Begin work on a Minimum Income Guarantee**, which would make sure that everyone in Scotland has enough money to live with dignity. In our first 100 days we have laid the foundations, setting up a Steering Group to consider issues of design and delivery, and launched a discussion platform.
- **Invest £1 billion over this Parliament to tackle the poverty-related attainment gap**, taking forward a refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme, and implementing the recommendations of the OECD review of the curriculum.
- Provide funding for councils to support **recruitment of 3,500 additional teachers and 500 classroom assistants** – over and above the 1,400 recruited during the pandemic – with £50 million provided in our first 100 days to recruit 1,000 teachers and 500 classroom assistants. We have provided further funding to enable councils to make these posts permanent.
- Deliver a package of support to **tackle the cost of the school day, and ensure all children have access to the same opportunities**, including providing digital devices, free school trips, and expanding free school meals.
- **Work to expand funded early learning and childcare for children aged 1 and 2, starting with low-income households within this Parliament.** In the coming year we will start engagement with families, the early learning sector and academics to design how the new offer will work.
- Build a **system of wraparound school age childcare**, offering care before and after school and in the holidays, which will be free to families on the lowest incomes. In the coming year we will engage people and communities – including children and young people – in designing options for this, and publish a 5 year delivery plan.
- **Work with The Hunter Foundation on the Supporting Young People through Mentoring and Leadership programme**, supporting up to 15,000 care experienced and disadvantaged young people across 300 schools to reach their full potential.
- **Work across Government to #KeepThePromise** – investing £500 million in a Whole Family Wellbeing Fund over the Parliament, to reduce crisis intervention and keep children and young people with their families, and introduce a new Care Experience Grant, a £200 annual payment over 10 years for care experienced young people.
- Start work this year to ensure **access to a “Bairns’ Hoose” by 2025**: a child-friendly environment providing trauma informed recovery, improving children’s experience of the criminal justice system, and preventing them from being re-traumatised.
- Ensure Scotland is a global leader in human rights through a **new Human Rights Bill**, which will include, as far as possible within devolved competence, incorporation of four UN human rights treaties into Scots Law. We will consult on the Bill in the coming year.
- **Take forward a programme of work to embed equality, inclusion and human rights throughout Scotland** – including £10 million to tackle isolation and loneliness over this parliamentary term, and £100 million over three years to support frontline services and focus on prevention of violence against women and girls from school onward. We will also work to tackle racism in our schools and communities, and refresh work to support refugees and asylum seekers.
- Bring forward the **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill** within the next year.

### 3. A NET ZERO NATION: ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, restoring nature and enhancing our climate resilience, in a just and fair way

We are living in a global climate and nature emergency, with climate change and nature loss the greatest threats facing people and the planet. This year, the eyes of the world will be on the COP26 Conference in Glasgow – one of the world's last chances to limit global warming to 1.5°C. As a nation, we need to advance determinedly towards net zero emissions: decarbonising our homes, buildings, and transport, and restoring and protecting our natural environment. We have an opportunity to do so in increasingly ambitious and innovative ways, building a greener, cleaner economy and enhancing our resilience to the impacts of climate change which cannot be avoided. And we will make this transition in a fair and just way that does not leave people and communities behind.

#### We will:

- **Play our part to support a world-changing deal at COP26 in Glasgow** – this must move beyond rhetoric and target setting to demonstrate the ambition the world needs through funded actions. We will use our position as European co-chair of the Under 2 Coalition to mobilise increased climate action from states and regions ahead of and during the summit.
- **Implement the recommendations of the Just Transition Commission**, to build a net zero economy that is fair for all, and in the coming year start to publish Just Transition plans for every sector and region.
- **Take forward a ten-year £500 million Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray**, supporting and accelerating the transition of the region as we reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Make offshore wind central to our delivery of emissions reduction targets** through further ScotWind leasing rounds over this Parliament.
- **Invest at least £1.8 billion over this Parliament** in decarbonising homes and buildings – with the aim of converting at least 1 million homes and the equivalent of 50,000 non-domestic buildings to low or zero-emission heating by 2030.
- **Bring about a green transport revolution** – working towards our ambition to remove the majority of diesel buses from public transport by the end of 2023, reducing car kilometres by 20% by 2030, decarbonising Scotland's railways by 2035, and phasing out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.
- Subject to parliamentary approval, **provide nationwide free bus travel for Scotland's young people aged under 22** from 31 January 2022, benefitting around 930,000 young people.
- **Provide more active travel opportunities**, reducing emissions and keeping people healthy – and increasing spending on active travel in 2024-25 to at least £320m or 10% of the total transport budget. **In our first 100 days we've already established 12 month pilot projects to deliver free bikes to school-age children who cannot afford them** to inform how we roll the scheme out nationally.
- **Introduce a Natural Environment Bill**, putting in place key legislative changes and statutory targets to restore and protect nature.
- **Deliver a step change in marine protection**, with new measures to make Scotland an international leader, including beginning this year the process of designating 10% of our seas as highly protected.
- **Designate at least one new National Park** by the end of this Parliament, provided relevant legal conditions can be met.
- **Invest £500 million in our natural economy**, including the expansion of the Nature Restoration Fund, creating local nature networks and increased forestry and peatland.
- **Deliver at least three Carbon Neutral Islands by 2040**, creating jobs, protecting our island environments from climate change, and contributing to the 2045 net zero commitment. By summer 2022, we will publish a plan setting out how this transition will be supported and achieved.



#### 4. AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE AND PLACES: putting sustainability, wellbeing and fair work at the heart of our economic transformation

The pandemic has taken a significant toll on people, businesses, and the economy, coming on top of the UK Government's EU Exit deal which has impacted Scotland's prosperity, particularly in some of our most important sectors. Countless people's employment prospects have been put at risk – particularly those most at risk from poverty already; many businesses have been brought to the brink and some still face an uncertain future; key sectors have been materially affected; and local economies, particularly in remote and rural areas, have felt the burden of restrictions. As we recover, we will seize the opportunity to design an economy that is greener and works for all of Scotland's people and places. We will align our recovery with our ambitions for a wellbeing economy, based on the principles of equality, sustainability, prosperity and resilience – focused on securing good and fair work for those most impacted by the pandemic and existing inequalities.

##### We will:

- **Launch a 10-year National Strategy for Economic Transformation** in the autumn, alongside a new National Challenge Competition which will provide up to £50 million to projects with the greatest potential to transform Scotland's economy.
- **Invest an additional £500 million to support the new, good and green jobs of the future, including upskilling and reskilling people to access those** – including £20 million through the National Transition Training Fund, and up to a further £20 million for those affected by long-term unemployment, this year.
- **Make up for the opportunities lost to young people during the pandemic by delivering our Young Person's Guarantee** – providing at least 24,000 new and enhanced opportunities.
- **Help people get the skills they need to access the green jobs of the future**, developing our Greens Jobs Workforce Academy and creating a skills guarantee for workers in carbon intensive sectors.
- **Pilot a 4-day working week, supported by a £10 million fund for participating companies**, to better understand the likely impacts on workers, businesses and the economy.
- **Progress our vision of Scotland as a leading Fair Work Nation by 2025**: including making payment of the real living wage to all employees a condition of public sector grants by summer 2022.
- **Promote a thriving rural economy**, launching the new **£20 million Rural Entrepreneur Fund in the coming financial year**, providing grants of up to £10,000 to support the relocation or creation of 2000 new businesses.
- **Support the recommendations of the Tourism Recovery Taskforce**, including a £25 million portfolio of projects in 2021-22, and consider the best approach to future years.
- **Invest over £33 billion over the course of this Parliament in our National Infrastructure Mission, which includes £1 billion in the Scottish National Investment Bank**, to create new jobs and markets and provide benefits across Scottish supply chains. **In the coming year, we will commence work to consider the options for the creation of a new national infrastructure company**, to manage and develop public assets for the public good.
- **Set out the recommendations for future transport infrastructure investment by publishing the second Strategic Transport Projects Review by the end of this year.**
- **Help businesses to harness the economic potential of technology, backed by £100 million in investment across this Parliament.** In our first 100 days, we have already started investing in the £25 million DigitalBoost Fund, to help SMEs get access to the right digital skills and equipment.

- **Ensure a connected Scotland and tackle the digital divide**, improving access to superfast and gigabit capable broadband and bringing 4G to rural and island communities, and extending the Connecting Scotland programme to get 300,000 households online by March 2026.
- **Support more businesses to harness the potential of technology**, continuing to implement the recommendations of the Logan review and providing £100 million to improve digital capabilities.
- **Enhance Scotland's economy and international competitiveness** through implementation of our Vision for Trade, Export Growth, Inward Investment and Global Capital Investment Plans.
- Take forward a **Community Wealth Building Bill** in this Parliament, helping create and protect jobs and enable greater community and third sector ownership of assets.

## 5. LIVING BETTER: supporting thriving, resilient and diverse communities

Even while the pandemic restricted our movements, it showed the strength and cohesion of many communities, with neighbours and neighbourhoods pulling together over the long months of lockdown. But the experience has been at best a mixed one: while some found comfort and enjoyment in their local areas, for others the restrictions locked them into homes and communities which did not meet the standards we should expect. As we recover from the pandemic, we will support the local communities, urban and rural, that are the building blocks of our nation: delivering new, green affordable homes, tackling homelessness and rough sleeping, supporting inclusive communities and accelerating our transition to net zero by ensuring people have access to the services they need in their own neighbourhoods, whilst reforming the justice system to keep our communities safe.

### We will:

- **Deliver 110,000 affordable homes across Scotland by 2032**, with at least 70% in the social rented sector and 10% in our remote, rural and island communities supported by a Remote, Rural & Islands Action Plan.
- **Invest an additional £50 million to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping**, taking forward our Ending Homelessness Together action plan – including specific work to scale up Housing First more rapidly; end the use of communal night shelters; advance legislative protections for people experiencing domestic abuse; and explore alternative ways to reduce migrant homelessness.
- Improve standards and rights across all housing tenures – publishing a new **Rented Sector Strategy** by the end of the year and bringing forward legislation to implement an effective system of rent controls before the end of this Parliament.

- **Revitalise local communities through development of 20-minute neighbourhoods, investment in town centres and a new focus on place** – improving local services and infrastructure, and aiding our ambition to ‘live well locally’ and achieve a 20% reduction in car kilometres driven by 2030. We will also roll out 20 mph speed limits on appropriate roads in built-up areas by 2025.
- **Start rolling out the £325 million Place Based Investment Programme**, supporting community led regeneration, complemented by delivery of our new £50 million low carbon Vacant & Derelict Land Investment Programme.
- **Make sure our communities are well connected**, investing in new and better public transport links and keeping ferry travel affordable for our islands.
- **Bring ScotRail services into the public sector.**
- **Transform the way in which justice services are delivered** – ensuring children’s rights are protected and upheld, putting the voices of victims and a trauma-informed approach at the heart of Scottish justice, and moving away from the use of custody for those who don’t pose a risk of serious harm, while protecting the police resource budget in real terms for the entirety of the Parliament.
- **Develop and take forward a new Land Reform Bill, with measures to address the concentration of land ownership in Scotland**, including a public interest test. We will double the Scottish Land Fund by the end of the Parliament, supporting community ownership projects across the country.

## 6 SCOTLAND IN THE WORLD: championing democratic principles, at home and abroad

The pandemic has necessarily changed the way we engage with our international neighbours. But it has also reminded us that the world we live in is fundamentally interconnected, and that we need to work internationally to resolve global problems, whether COVID-19 or the climate crisis. Scotland will retain and enhance an outward looking, international focus, acting as a good global citizen and demonstrating our commitment to democracy, fairness and human rights. We will retain and showcase our distinctive national identity on the world stage, supporting the recovery of Scotland’s culture and tourism sectors. We will maintain time-tested friendships with our European neighbours in the aftermath of EU Exit, and seek to re-join the European Union as soon as we can.

### We will:

- From April 2022, start **to increase our International Development Fund from £10 million to £15 million** and maintain that increase in line with inflation throughout the term of this Parliament.
- Continue to support our African partner countries with their response to COVID-19 **through additional supplies of medical equipment and products this year**, including vital PPE through the NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Programme.
- **Sustain our £1 million per year Humanitarian Emergency Fund**, which this year includes funding to provide life-saving assistance for the crisis in Afghanistan.
- **Support our internationally recognised culture sector with the funding needed to make a strong recovery from COVID-19.** Already within our first 100 days we have made £25 million available to help creative and performance organisations catch up and recover from COVID-19.

- **Provide a one-off fund of up to £1.25 million through the Scottish Libraries and Information Council** to help libraries re-open and stay open, particularly in areas of deprivation.
- **Showcase Scotland internationally** through our Brand Scotland collaboration and campaigns, raising Scotland's international profile, and hosting major events like the inaugural UCI Cycling World Championships in 2023.
- **Strengthen our diplomatic ties and international presence** – establishing new offices in Copenhagen and Warsaw; reviewing approaches to future policy and economic engagement to enhance Scotland's global reach and presence; and, providing additional resources to Screen Scotland to help facilitate year-round engagement between the Scottish and international film & television industries.
- **Reconstitute a Ministerial working group on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development** to lead on our ambition to align domestic policy objectives and activity with our international development objectives.
- **Prepare to give the people of Scotland a fully informed choice on independence.**

### **Putting equality, inclusion and human rights at the heart of our approach**

We are clear that equality, inclusion and human rights should underpin decision-making and delivery across the work of government and the wider public sector in Scotland. We are committed to promoting equality and tackling discrimination, furthering Scotland's position as a global leader in human rights, ensuring that all of Scotland's people, including those who share protected characteristics, are able to fulfil their potential and achieve the outcomes in the National Performance Framework and working with communities to ensure that everyone feels safe, respected and included in the life of Scotland.

This Programme for Government recognises that the impacts of COVID-19 have been and will continue to be experienced disproportionately by different groups, including women, those from Minority Ethnic communities, older people and disabled people. So, building on learning from those COVID-19 impacts and responses as well as our work over the past decade to mainstream and embed equality and human rights, we will continue to seek to strengthen this in Scottish Government policy-making as a single joint endeavour. We are working across different groups to promote equality, recognising intersectional inequality, drawing from the expertise of key stakeholders, and in doing so being guided by the recommendations of national forums such as the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls, the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership and the Expert Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity. Ensuring that we truly embed equality, inclusion and human rights across the work of government and the wider public sector will be critical in helping Scotland to build back better in a way that targets our efforts towards those who have been disproportionately affected.

# Outcomes and Equalities

Scotland's wellbeing framework and our commitment to equality and human rights





Scotland's National Performance Framework sets out a vision for a country that is characterised by fairness and equality; that values and protects our environment; where young people thrive and have all the skills necessary to lead fulfilling lives; that has communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe; where human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

COVID-19 has had a profound effect on our ability to achieve these ambitions, and on our wellbeing as a nation. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, it is therefore more important than ever to be guided by the vision and values of Scotland's National Performance Framework and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our commitment to national wellbeing will shape our recovery and help to create a greener, fairer and more resilient Scotland.

This Programme for Government focuses on how we will lead Scotland out of the pandemic. But it is also steered by the longer term vision in the National Performance Framework. Our National Outcomes to be healthy and active, and to respect, protect and fulfil human rights will challenge us to ensure that we rebuild a stronger, more resilient health and care system that is centred on people. Our commitment to being a place where children grow up loved, safe and respected, and to tackle poverty, will drive us to take forward a national mission to end child poverty. Our ambition to be open, connected, and to make a positive contribution internationally, and to have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy, underpins our commitment to achieve net zero and to champion democratic principles at home and abroad. Though the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been, and are likely to continue to be, borne unequally, the National Performance Framework has promoting equality at its heart, and it will be essential that we are guided by it to ensure that all of Scotland can flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.



## Chapter 1

### **A Caring Society:** Setting a new vision for health and social care



### To set a new vision for health and social care, within the next 12 months we will:

- Provide the first installment of a significant budget increase for frontline health services, and take forward our NHS Recovery Plan to increase capacity and address backlogs in treatment times.
- Invest £8 million in a package of support to help health and social care staff to look after their own mental health and wellbeing.
- Bring forward legislation to establish the new National Care Service.
- Complete construction of National Treatment Centres in Fife, Forth Valley and Highlands – creating new and additional capacity for surgeries and procedures.
- Provide the first £50 million of the planned £250 million increased investment to tackle the drugs death emergency – providing effective outreach services in every local authority and increasing both the availability of rehabilitation and aftercare services, and the number of people in treatment.
- Provide £120 million for mental health service recovery, complete our commitment to recruit 800 additional mental health workers this year, and ensure community wellbeing services are available in every local authority.
- Bring Free Personal Nursing Care rates in line with the National Care Home Contract and provide additional funding to enhance breaks for unpaid carers.

We will forever owe our health and social care services, and the extraordinary staff who kept them running in the toughest of years, our immense gratitude. Their selfless efforts and determination to provide care and comfort for those who needed it at a time of national emergency, while rapidly transforming ways of working, have been invaluable in our response to the pandemic so far.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we will strengthen and improve our health and social care system so that everyone gets the care they need, while recognising and repaying the efforts of staff given the toll the pandemic has had on them.

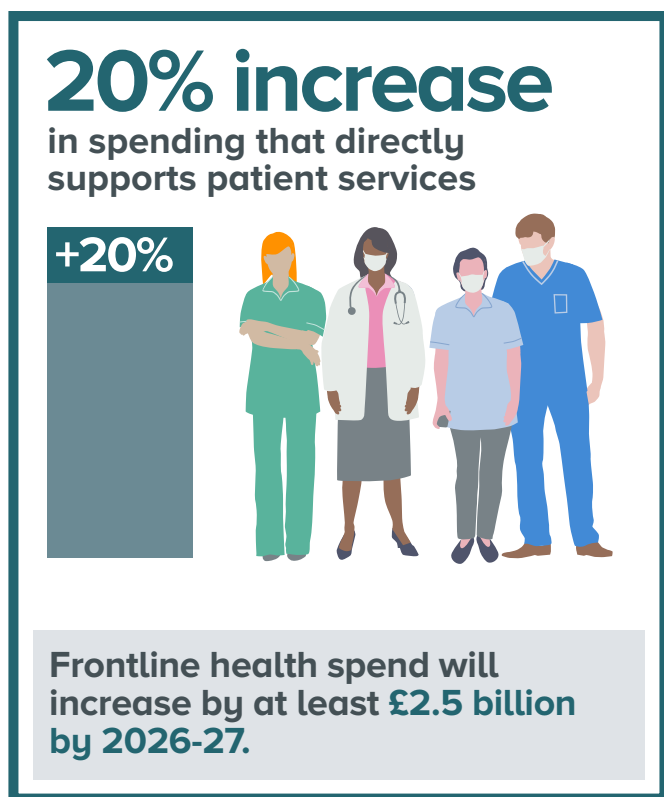
We will also rethink the ways in which care is provided – protecting the fundamental principle of providing free care at the point of need for everyone who requires it, while learning from the experience of the pandemic to ensure that care is delivered in a way, place and time that works best for people. That means reforms which start with people and places, rather than services. We will continue our work to promote healthy behaviours and lifestyles, and reduce health inequalities across the entire Scottish population.

### A recovered and strengthened NHS

Whilst the rate of COVID-19 hospital admissions has declined, there is no room for complacency: we must stay vigilant against transmission and new variants, and plan for pressures on the NHS to continue for some time.

The 2021-22 Scottish Budget already takes health funding to over £16 billion. **We will now go further, and increase investment in frontline health services by 20% over this Parliament.** The next uplift will be applied through the 2022-23 Scottish Budget, with **frontline funding that directly supports patient services increasing by at least £2.5 billion by 2026-27.** We will pass on all frontline health and social care consequentials.

A hallmark of the pandemic was the shift in how people received care – pharmacists, GPs and other community services ensured people could still access high-quality healthcare while reducing unnecessary trips to hospital.



Over this Parliament we **will increase primary care funding by 25%**, with **half of all frontline health spend invested in community health services**, to ensure this record investment provides more care for people in a place and in a way that meets their needs. We have also increased our Primary Care Fund from £195 million to £250 million in 2021-22, which includes support for the new GP contract and for wider Primary Care reform. To ensure funding is distributed equitably across the country, **we will review the NHS funding formula.**

**We will invest £10 billion over the next decade to replace and refurbish our health infrastructure** to build the NHS for the future and ensure patients continue to access high quality care in world-class facilities.

While the NHS remained open for essential services, many services had to be paused or reduced in scope and scale due to the pandemic. As a result many people are waiting longer for the care they need. The scale of that challenge is considerable and a significant and sustained remobilisation is needed to address that backlog.

Our **NHS Scotland Recovery Plan**, published within the Government's first 100 days, commits more than **£1 billion of targeted investment for the recovery and renewal of our health service.**

It outlines a range of reforms across primary and acute NHS services to help recover from the pandemic, and get everyone the treatment they need as quickly as possible.

In acute care we are increasing capacity for inpatients, day cases, outpatients and diagnostics. In primary care the focus is to restore more face-to-face treatment quickly and safely, while recognising that virtual services will continue to have a role to play.

#### Key actions include:

- Investing £29 million this year, to provide an additional 78,000 diagnostic procedures in 2021-22 rising to 90,000 per year by 2025-26.
- Increasing outpatient activity by 140,000 (10%) by 2025-26 compared to pre-pandemic activity levels of around 1.4 million appointments and procedures a year.
- Increasing inpatient and day case capacity to achieve an increase over pre-pandemic levels of 27,500 procedures – a 10% increase – in 2022-23 and an increase of 55,500 procedures per year – a 20% increase – by 2025-26. We have also taken steps to introduce new capacity in 2021-22, including new national capacity for 8,000 cataract procedures and 12,000 endoscopies.
- Providing £8 million this year to support the mental health and wellbeing of the health and social care workforce.



An extra £400 million investment will allow **our National Treatment Centres to increase capacity** – contributing to the delivery of 55,500 inpatient/ day case procedures by creating capacity for more than 40,000 additional elective surgeries and procedures per year. **Two additional Centres, in Cumbernauld and Ayrshire,** will be added to existing plans with preparatory work, including development of business cases, beginning in this parliamentary year. **We will accelerate recruitment of at least 1,500 more staff** to support the Centres. The replacement of the Edinburgh Eye Pavilion will be progressed, with NHS Lothian preparing the Full Business Case, following the recent approval of the Outline Business Case. All of this work will deliver a national network of 10 specialist Centres across the country.

We **will continue to support health research and innovation** as a vital part of our recovery and our wider aims to improve the health of the population, investing in innovation at a local and national level. This is particularly important in supporting people living with the long-term effects of COVID-19 (“long COVID”). While most symptoms end within a few weeks, we know that some people experience new or persisting symptoms. We **will ensure that those people receive quality care and support** – from our NHS, social care or third sector – when they need it. **We will publish the principles and commitments that underpin our care and support for long COVID** in September 2021. We will build on our understanding of the longer term health impacts of COVID-19 from research and lived experience, and ensure our approach continues to evolve and respond to evidence as it emerges. We will equip our NHS and care staff with up-to-date resources to help them support people with their recovery.

Over the coming years, through advances in research, medicine and diagnostics, there will be increasing demand for the genetic capacity and capabilities within NHS Scotland. Many of the new medicines being accepted by the Scottish Medicines Consortium require genetic tests. We will invest in the genetic labs and frontline genetics services required to embed genomics medicine into routine healthcare.

We have also **established a new Centre for Sustainable Delivery** to pioneer and deliver new, better and more sustainable ways of delivering services and improving access for patients. It will be key to supporting NHS recovery by reducing unnecessary demand for services, and also developing new pathways of care that are better for patients. This will include enhanced delivery of community services, transformation of hospital pharmacy services, reducing the variation in waiting times for planned and unplanned care, and improving overall patient experience. We will update the Recovery Plan to reflect that work as we review it each year.





Limiting the impact on cancer patients during the pandemic has been a top priority, with vital treatments continuing. **The National Cancer Recovery Plan, backed by £114.5 million**, is helping improve patients' experience of care, as well as supporting the roll out of innovative treatments to improve services. In July 2021, we provided **£10 million for Health Boards to further recover and redesign cancer services** and improve waiting times. We will **retain the current cancer waiting time standards** and review whether there is merit in additional targets.

**We will publish a refreshed Framework for Effective Cancer Management** in September 2021, that supports waiting times improvements and incorporate the new ways of managing services that have emerged as a result of COVID-19.

**We will develop a new vision for early diagnosis and optimal cancer pathways** – starting with lung cancer – supported by an **additional £20 million investment**, over the life of this Parliament, for the Detect Cancer Early (DCE) Programme to improve early detection rates.

Within the Government's first 100 days, **three Early Cancer Diagnostic Centres were established in Dumfries & Galloway, Fife, and Ayrshire & Arran**. These enable GPs to refer patients with non-specific symptoms suspicious of cancer onto a fast-track diagnostic pathway, to get care and treatment quickly. We are committed to **ensuring equitable access to an Early Diagnosis Centre for everyone across NHS Scotland who needs it**, and will undertake an evaluation of the initial Centres after 12 months to help inform wider roll-out.

We also recognise the impact of the pandemic on maternity, neonatal and IVF services for the women, families, and 70,000 newborn babies who have used them over the last 18 months. **We will improve care for all pregnant women and newborn babies within the lifetime of this Parliament** by delivering on the recommendations of **The Best Start review of maternity and neonatal services**. We will deliver our **IVF guarantee** of treatment within 12 months of referral, establish a dignified and compassionate **miscarriage service** by the end of 2023, and take forward the recommendations of the Independent Review into maternity services at Dr Gray's Hospital.


### Staffing and wellbeing

A modern and sustainable health service relies on a healthy and resilient workforce. We gave health and care staff our applause in the early months of the pandemic, but we owe them so much more – the pay rise this year will ensure they remain the best paid in the UK.

We have already implemented an average **4% pay raise for Agenda for Change staff, backdated to 1 December 2020**. In August we implemented a **3% pay raise for NHS medical and dental staff, backdated to 1 April 2021**. This recognises the exceptional year our NHS workers had and reflects the immense value we place on their continued hard work and dedication. This annual pay rise is in addition to the £500 Thank You Payment made to every health & social care worker in Scotland.

£8 million  
this year

supporting health and social care staff to improve their own wellbeing.



This year we are also providing an **£8 million package to support the wellbeing of those working in health and social care**, with £2 million targeted at social care and primary care, in recognition of their specific needs.

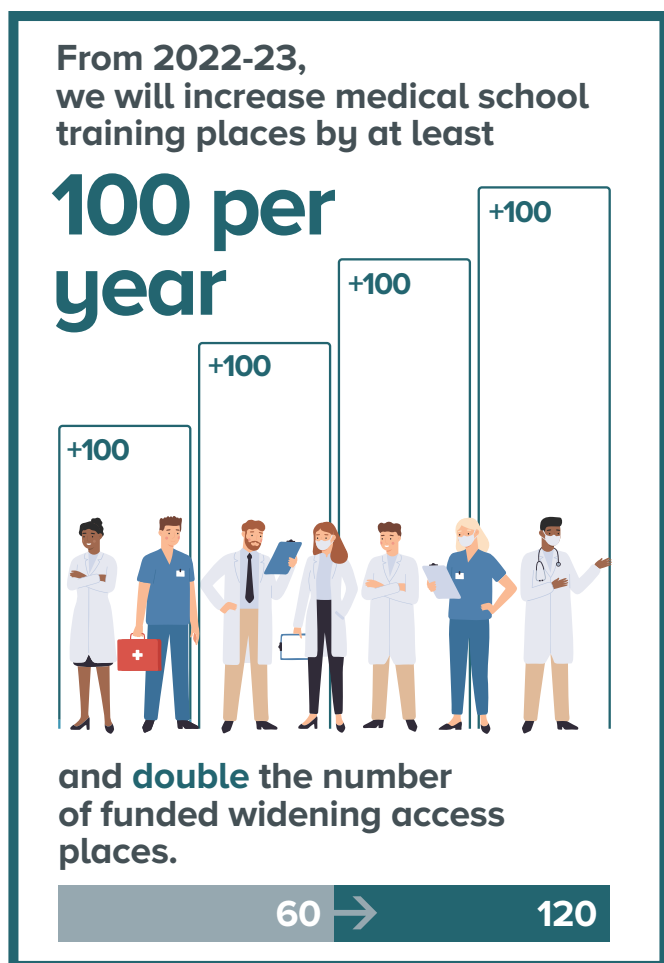
Most immediately, we will support the ongoing development of a National Wellbeing Programme – including a dedicated hub and helpline – Workforce Specialist Service and psychological interventions and therapies, along with time and training for staff to support each other as teams, and practical support like rest spaces. This will seek to embed wellbeing into everyone's working lives, supported by compassionate leadership and a culture where wellbeing and mental health are seen as fundamentally important.

We will also **take forward a range of actions to ensure we support the next generation of the workforce**, including:

- **Expanding medical school training places by at least 100 per year from 2021-22**, and doubling the number of funded widening access places to 120 per year.
- Establishing a **review into the strategic requirements for Allied Health Professionals education**, reporting by September 2022, to ensure the required skills mix and expansion to deliver Health and Social Care priorities.
- From September 2021, **introducing a new Paramedic Students Bursary**, providing eligible students with up to £10,000 per year.

### Redesigning the system around the individual

The need to deliver services in new ways during COVID-19 has demonstrated the range of alternatives available, in addition to traditional face-to-face care. Building on the desire of many to access care and support in new ways and underpinning our commitment to offer flexible access to care, **we will scale up digital care**.



While this will not be suitable for everyone, experience from the pandemic showed that it was a welcome option for many people, allowing them to get help without disrupting personal and work commitments, and reducing unnecessary travel. It also sits alongside our wider ambitions to make Scotland a digitally inclusive and connected country, including significant work to help get more people online through Connecting Scotland.

**We will continue to increase the use of Near Me, the video consulting service, backed by £3.4 million a year.** The service was rolled out to GP surgeries and community pharmacies in response to the pandemic and has now provided over 1 million consultations across all services. This year **we will introduce it to social care services**, including care homes and housing support, followed by wider public services including Social Security Scotland – ensuring its benefits are felt beyond health and care.

We will **develop a safe and secure digital app** that will support people to access information and services directly, self-manage, and access and contribute to their own health and care information. It will be introduced by the end of this Parliament, following public consultation and engagement. We will also **develop a digital prescription service** freeing up capacity for healthcare professionals to see more patients and making it easier for patients to access their medicines quickly and safely. This will initially be between GP practices and community pharmacies, progressing to other areas, including Out of Hours services, NHS 24, hospitals for out-patient and discharge prescribing, dentists, pharmacist prescribers, optometrists and community mobile prescribing.

Over this Parliament, **we will continue the redesign of urgent care**, helping the public access the right care in the right place at the right time. Even prior to the pandemic, attendances at A&E had been increasing substantially to a level where around 20% of people turning up would be more appropriately cared for in another setting. Every Health Board now has a hub to directly receive referrals from NHS 24, offering rapid access to a senior clinician and using telephone or video consultation where possible to minimise the need to attend A&E. Since June 2021, these have expanded to include children aged 18 months to 12 years. Where people are referred to A&E, this is scheduled – when possible – for a specific day and time, reducing unnecessary waits. Patients will be encouraged to contact their GP or community pharmacist as their first point of contact, keeping care as close to home as possible and avoiding unnecessary waits in A&E.

#### **Prioritising mental health and wellbeing so everyone in Scotland can thrive as we recover**

The impacts of the pandemic have been severe, in particular on those who were already experiencing inequalities, and as a result mental health services are facing increasing pressure. While we have significantly increased the support available, too many people are still waiting longer than we want for support.

We will invest in new and additional treatments and support, ensuring Health Boards redirect more of the funding we provide them, so that by the end of this Parliament **10% of all frontline NHS spend will go to mental health. We will also increase mental health spending by 25% over this Parliament.** This funding will help shift the focus to prevention and early intervention, reducing demand and waiting times for clinical services, often at crisis point, by ensuring the right mental health support is available to people when they need it.

**We will refresh and refocus our mental health commitments in 2022**, including a review and refresh of the Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027. We will also **develop a long-term mental health workforce plan in the first half of this Parliament**, to ensure we have the right workforce to deliver these commitments.

We will increase direct mental health investment by **at least 25%**



**At least 10% of frontline health spend will go on mental health, and 1% on child and adolescent services.**

By driving forward the actions set out in our **Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan, backed by £120 million in this financial year**, we will:

- Provide up to £29 million for Health and Social Care Partnerships to complete recruitment of 800 additional mental health workers by the end of 2021-22.
- Create transformational and lasting change by providing sufficient funding for around 320 additional staff in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) over the next 5 years, with the potential to increase capacity for CAMHS cases by over 10,000.
- Invest an additional £4 million to increase the capacity of NHS 24's Mental Health Hub, offering a compassionate response to those in distress or seeking support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Launch a new website in spring 2022, offering tips and advice from mental health experts and people with lived experience of mental health issues. Users will be able to create personalised mental wellbeing plans and access moderated online peer support communities.
- Invest £328,000 to enable more than 300 key front-line Police Scotland staff and around 200 Scottish Ambulance Service staff to refer people for Distress Brief Interventions, an effective and compassionate source of support.
- Provide additional funding for dementia post-diagnostic support, to expand access to front-line services and to strengthen wider support which benefits people with dementia and their families after a diagnosis.

GPs are usually the first port of call for people seeking professional support and treatment, and often become the main support for those people – when they may not be well enough equipped to respond to complex and varied needs. **By 2026, every GP Practice will have access to a mental health and wellbeing service**, funding 1,000 additional dedicated staff who can help grow community mental health resilience and direct social prescribing. Later this year, and on the basis of local plans submitted by Integration Authorities, we will fund the national implementation of these Mental Health in Primary Care teams.

The pandemic has also shown the possibilities for delivering quicker support through digital services, with 25% of psychological therapy referrals now going through such routes. Over the next year, we will **begin work on an expanded Digital Mental Health Programme**, that will increase self-referral to online treatments, establish a Mental Health Innovation Hub and explore options for an online national psychology service.

While mental health can affect anyone, we recognise the particular risks for children and young people – particularly as the pandemic has constrained their social, educational and economic opportunities. Working with Health Boards, we will seek to **ensure at least 1% of all frontline NHS spend goes on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services by the end of this Parliament**, and improve preventative and early intervention services. Around 200 community based mental health and wellbeing services have been funded in the past year to offer an alternative where specialist services are not appropriate. These will be established in all local authority areas this year, and **we will double the budget for community based mental wellbeing services for children and young people to £30 million**.

Sadly adverse and traumatic experiences also increased for many people during the pandemic, resulting in poorer physical and mental health. For some, pre-existing trauma was exacerbated and access to support diminished. We have **extended the National Trauma Training Programme for a further two years, to 2023**, to facilitate a trauma-informed workforce and services. An understanding of trauma will also inform the development of our forthcoming **Mental Health Quality Standards**, which we will publish during this Parliament. Working with COSLA, we have also initiated a **Leadership Pledge of Support for Trauma Informed Practice**, raising the standard of support across public and third sector organisations. Together, these will ensure that services and workforces recognise where people are affected by trauma and adverse childhood experiences, respond in ways that prevent further harm, and support people's recovery and life-chances.

To protect the rights of those experiencing the most severe mental health issues – including those subject to the mental health, incapacity or adult support and protection legislation – the Scottish Government established the Barron Review of forensic mental health services, and the Scott Review of legislation. **We will publish our response to the Barron Review later this year**, and we are already working with partners to take forward its recommendations. **We will take forward the Scott Review when it publishes in September 2022**. We will use the outcome of these Reviews to create a world-leading and human rights aligned mental health and incapacity legislative framework, and a forensic mental health system that delivers care and treatment for people who need it, when they need it, while protecting public safety.

Central to the mental health agenda is our vision for Scotland to be a place where suicide is preventable and prevented, and where help and support is available to anyone feeling suicidal, and to those who have lost a loved one. Over this Parliament, **we will double funding for suicide prevention to £2.8 million per annum**. This will ensure the right investment, policies and services are in place to underpin the new suicide prevention strategy – due to publish in 2022. This includes **significantly expanding awareness-raising and training on suicide prevention** which will help workforces and communities respond to people who are at risk of suicide, including through programmes such as the Scottish Mental Health First Aid training and Ask Tell Respond programmes. In 2021, we will build on work underway by Public Health Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland to embed mental health training for staff in key public sector organisations.

### **Creating a person-centred social care system, built on compassion, care and kindness**

At the frontline of the pandemic, Scotland's carers provided quality care with compassion to some of our most vulnerable people during the toughest of times. The experience of our care staff and those living in social care settings was often heart breaking. Now is the time to rethink how we deliver care, and ensure consistently high-quality services for everyone who needs them, their families and staff.



We will establish a

# National Care Service

backed by at least  
**25% more investment  
in social care.**



**Over this Parliament, the Scottish Government will take forward the biggest reform of health and social care since the founding of the NHS, establishing a new National Care Service (NCS)** – with the aim of treating people with dignity and respect at its heart. We will ensure that care is focused on the individual, fully addressing their human rights and understanding their needs, and properly recognises the value and insight of their experiences of living in care.

The NCS will also provide national accountability with strong and appropriate local input and ethical commissioning. It will support Fair Work commitments, not least by providing – for the first time ever – collective national negotiating for workers’ terms and conditions. We will also ensure the service provides appropriate channels for workforce and trade union representation in its governance.

**Our ambition is to bring the pay, terms and conditions of nursing staff working within the care sector in line with those in the NHS,** and we will review options to achieve this. Until then, we have maintained our commitment to ensure staff delivering direct adult social care are paid at least the real living wage, with additional funding of £64.5 million this year. We will also work with CoSLA on the establishment of minimum standards for procurement decisions, with a requirement for ethical commissioning taking into account factors like fair work, including terms and conditions, and workforce and trade union recognition and representation.

We have already taken the immediate steps towards the creation of the National Care Service. **In July we established a Social Covenant Group,** made up of people with day-to-day experience, to set the values and principles that will guide decision making and oversight of the service. At the start of August – also within the Government’s first 100 days – we launched a consultation on the establishment of the new service and will, **by June 2022, introduce the legislation to enable its creation.**



We will back our ambitions for social care with significant investment. While the exact costs of our reforms will depend on the ongoing consultation, and in turn legislation, **as a minimum we will increase public investment in social care by 25% over this Parliament** – providing over £800 million more by 2026-27.

The establishment of the National Care Service will be a considerable undertaking, bringing momentous change. However, we will not wait for the service to come into being before taking forward some of the positive reforms we know our social care sector needs to continue to drive up standards and quality. We will develop options to remove charging for non-residential care and, subject to consultation, bring Free Personal Nursing Care rates in line with the National Care Home Contract. We will also work with Health and Social Care Partnerships to identify actions to increase early intervention and prevention, rather than responding to critical need and crisis. We are working with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and NHS Education Scotland (NES) to develop a national induction programme for new entrants to Adult Social Care by the end of Spring 2022.

Throughout the pandemic, our overriding priority in care homes was to safeguard and protect staff and residents from infection – but at times, that meant that residents were cut off from their loved ones, causing anguish for many. **We will strengthen residents' rights in adult residential settings and bring in 'Anne's Law'** – giving nominated relatives or friends the same access rights to care homes as staff while following stringent infection control procedures, as called for by Care Home Relatives Scotland.

### Tackling the drugs death emergency

Every single drugs death in Scotland is a tragedy – but more than that, it is a national disgrace. Our actions must be comprehensive – from providing the best start in life for every child, to ensuring the social safety net we have in place is a strong one. We want Scotland to be a fairer, more equal country, where the underlying causes of the drugs emergency are tackled at source. But we also need a concerted and radical public health approach to the crisis currently confronting us.

# £250million

**over the lifetime of this Parliament  
– £50 million a year – to tackle the  
drugs death emergency.**



We have **established a national mission** to reduce harm, promote recovery and tackle the increase in drug-related deaths. We will **invest an additional £250 million over the lifetime of this Parliament – £50 million a year** – to get more people into life-saving and life-changing treatment, which is right for them and offered when they ask, in all parts of Scotland. This will increase capacity and make it easier for people to access service, as well as improving services – including aftercare for those returning to communities. We will provide milestones to show how this investment increases sustainable capacity across the 5 years. This also includes **a £100 million investment in residential rehabilitation** over the life of this Parliament.

We will **connect the emergency work that saves lives with the work being done to improve lives** in: keeping the Promise that every child grows up loved, safe and respected; addressing childhood trauma; mental health; housing and homelessness; poverty and inequality; education and prevention; and improvements in the justice system. Central to making these links is the inclusion of alcohol and drug services in a new National Care Service. The NCS consultation includes questions about alcohol and drug services and national commissioning of services to achieve consistency across Scotland. This along with forthcoming legislation on Human Rights, will help us make people's rights a reality, and help us implement change and improvement for them.

This year, **we invested a further £14.4 million in front-line services to get more people into treatment, and introduced new treatments** such as long-acting buprenorphine as an alternative to methadone. This includes £4 million of dedicated support for **implementing the new Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards**, which give people a wider choice of treatment or recovery and include same-day treatment. **We also provided an extra £13.3 million for Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships**, with specific funding to support children and families and to increase the capacity and use of residential rehabilitation.

**Health and Social Care Partnerships will fully implement the 10 new MAT standards by April 2022**, which includes better integration of addictions and mental health services with primary care. As part of this, we will ensure funding provides effective outreach services in every local authority, making treatment and support available to people who need it, when they need it, based on what will work for them. **For 2022, we will introduce a new target for getting more people into treatment.**

The five year funding cycle we have already introduced for third sector and grassroots organisations builds sustainability and allows for longer-term interventions which will save lives. The guarantee of £18 million in the first year will enable long-term investment and includes:

- **£5 million Local Support Fund** to increase capacity in community and third sector organisations
- **£5 million Improvement Fund** to improve outreach services, treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare, with dedicated support for women in response to rising numbers of drug deaths among women
- **£3 million Families and Children Fund** to support children, young people and families affected by drug use
- **£5 million Recovery Fund** for additional residential rehabilitation capacity

The scale of the drugs death emergency requires us to use every lever at our disposal. There is strong evidence from other countries that safe consumption facilities can help prevent fatal overdoses, and encourage people who use drugs to access longer-term help. We will **explore every legal avenue in an attempt to establish medically supervised safe consumption facilities**, and are working with local authorities to **identify more areas in Scotland where we can introduce heroin-assisted treatment services**, building on the positive example of Glasgow. We are investing £400,000 this year to help Glasgow expand its existing service and to support other cities consider the introduction of similar services.

The national mission has people at its heart and particularly those with lived experience. This year we will set up a National Collaborative to bring together these voices to help shape services for the future. We will work with those with lived experience to tackle the stigma which often stops people reaching out for support and run a national campaign on the issue towards the end of this year.

This is an all-Scotland and all-Government mission, overseen by an Implementation Group of Ministers, service leads and people with lived experience.

### Prevention and promoting active, healthy lifestyles

We will prioritise services that improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the entire Scottish population while reducing health inequalities. The reality of Scotland's comparatively poor health is avoidable disease and suffering – particularly for those living in our most deprived communities. Increases in life expectancy have stalled since 2012 – and for some in our most deprived communities, it has decreased.

We will continue to lead the way with bold population-wide approaches to reduce the significant disproportionate harms of tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy diets, and to inspire healthy behaviours and lifestyles.

Smoking remains the primary preventable cause of ill-health and premature death in Scotland. Successful previous work has reduced the overall numbers of people smoking, however our rates are persistently high amongst more disadvantaged groups. We will **develop a renewed action plan**, which will identify further interventions needed in order to achieve the ambition for **a tobacco-free generation by 2034**.

Alcohol-related harm is also one of the most pressing public health challenges that we face in Scotland. On average Scottish adults drink around 18 units of alcohol per week, 30% more than the 14 unit weekly limit. We **will drive forward our Alcohol Framework**, which contains 20 actions to reduce alcohol-related harms and embeds the World Health Organization's focus on tackling the affordability, availability and attractiveness of alcohol.

Specific actions include evaluating our world-leading minimum unit pricing policy, improving alcohol labelling and **consulting on potential alcohol advertising restrictions during 2022**, to protect children and young people. We will also continue to strengthen alcohol treatment and support services, with implementation of UK-wide clinical guidelines, improved staff training, and work to address complex needs.

COVID-19 shone a light on the strength of local communities in understanding and responding quickly to local needs. **We will support people and communities**, strengthening existing work with partner organisations that help people to manage their own health conditions and promote active living.



For some people, the pandemic served as encouragement to take up new physical activities, but for others the emotional toll and changes in routine meant exercise became less frequent. **We will double investment in sport and active living to £100 million a year by the end of the Parliament** ensuring more people can enjoy active lives as we recover, improving physical, mental and social health. In addition to raising physical activity levels, this will allow us to rebuild capacity and resilience in the sector following closures during the pandemic.

We will work with **sportscotland** and partners to understand how best to increase investment in physical activity and sport, while ensuring we address inequality of access. We will work with **sportscotland** and partners to ensure that investment is equal: engaging with the media and sector partners to significantly improve and increase the visibility of women's sports, athletes and participants, through the creation of a Scottish sport media summit which will improve content and increase coverage across all media platforms. More participation and visibility of girls and women in sport is a priority.

We will also focus on improving the health of our young people, aiming to **halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce diet-related health inequalities**, by taking forward the actions in our Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan. We will evaluate 3 pilots of whole systems approaches to improving diet and healthy weight services, to scale up and implement best practice across all Health Boards. £650,000 has also been made available this year to help Health Boards and local partners, support services which encourage and reinforce good nutrition, healthy eating habits and physical activity for children under five and their families.

Over the coming year, we will also work with **sportscotland** on the next steps to **ensure that Active Schools programmes are free for all children and young people** by the end of this Parliament, providing them with more opportunities to take part in sport before, during and after school.

In this Parliament **we will introduce a Public Health Bill that includes restrictions on unhealthier food and drink promotions** and in September we will publish an Out of Home Action Plan to help people make informed, healthier food choices when eating out or ordering in.

#### **Making services accessible to all**

The record levels of funding we will provide for primary care will **protect free eye examinations and free prescriptions**. It will also enable us to **abolish all NHS dentistry charges over the course of the Parliament**, having already abolished charges for young people aged under 26 in our first 100 days.

We will also **expand the positive work done by the NHS Pharmacy First service – backed by £7.5 million investment in 2021-22, rising to £10 million by 2022-23** – which enables community pharmacies to help people with more minor ailments and common clinical conditions; offering advice, treatment or referral to other healthcare teams if required. **We will also legislate to allow other healthcare staff to undertake vaccinations without being under the direction and control of a medical practitioner**. This will reduce the pressure in General Practice and also improve the availability of all vaccines by increasing the bank of staff who can vaccinate.

**We will support NHS Audiologists to work in a general practice and community settings**, building on two pilots in NHS Tayside and NHS Ayrshire and Arran, freeing up capacity in acute settings. We will **deliver a national community-based service for people with low vision**, transferring services from hospitals to settings closer to people. A small scale service will be available from April 2023, and rolled out across all Health Board areas by 2026.



We agree with the Right to Rehab Coalition that no one should be excluded from support that helps them understand their condition, how to improve it and, most importantly, how to manage it. We are implementing our recovery and rehabilitation framework, which will ensure that **by the end of 2025 all adults who require rehabilitation will have timely access to the right services, in the right place.** We will work with Health Boards and Integration Joint Boards to eliminate referral and criteria based routes to rehabilitation and move towards “request for assistance” models that ensure no one is excluded from accessing support. We are also working with health, social care, third sector and leisure trusts to ensure there are good quality, easily accessible community based rehabilitation resources available across all sectors.



To provide the very highest standards of care right up to the end of life, we will ensure that everyone who needs it can access seamless, timely and high-quality palliative care. Over the coming year, **we will develop and publish a new national strategy for palliative and end of life care** that takes a whole system, public health approach. And we will ensure provision of high-quality child palliative care, regardless of location, supported by **sustainable funding of at least £7 million per year through Children’s Hospices Across Scotland.**

To secure safe, high-quality and cost-effective medicines, we will create a **new NHS National Pharmaceutical Agency by 2025**, with preparatory work beginning this year. This could include expanding manufacturing capabilities for both generic medicines and medicines that are specially manufactured to meet the needs of individual patients, and supporting investment in research and development to bring new medicines and jobs to Scotland.

To ensure the voices of people using health services are heard, and their concerns acted upon, **we will establish a Patient Safety Commissioner.** They will work with, and support, healthcare providers and other relevant bodies to improve the processes and systems they have in place for receiving and acting on patient feedback; support patients to raise issues or concerns about the treatment or care they have received; and act as an advocate for patients. A consultation on this closed in May 2021, and we will now analyse responses before bringing forward legislation.

We will also **ensure that our islands and rural areas are not left behind as we work to improve health services** by creating a centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care, with scoping work starting this year.

### Tackling inequality

Health inequalities impact on every aspect of too many people’s lives. But those inequalities – where they stem from, and the outcomes they have – should not be accepted, and need not be preordained.

The last 18 months have put inequalities across society in the spotlight. Like the rest of the world Scotland’s health inequalities have been highlighted and exacerbated by the pandemic. The disproportionate harm caused to minority ethnic groups, people living in greatest deprivation, people with obesity, diabetes and respiratory disease has highlighted vulnerabilities and widened existing inequalities.

We **will pursue equity with a fresh focus on minority ethnic groups** by implementing the recommendations from the Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity to **improve collection and use of ethnicity data within Health & Social Care**.

Women and girls face particular health inequalities, resulting in differing levels of care and poorer outcomes. Within its first 100 days, **the Scottish Government has published a new Women's Health Plan** to improve outcomes and services for women and girls, with immediate actions this year. A detailed implementation plan will be developed this year, with progress reported through Implementation Reports from 2022. **From Autumn 2021, we will introduce 'bridging contraception'**, as the first step in expanding community pharmacies' role in supporting women's health. This will allow community pharmacies to prescribe longer-term contraceptive options, alongside emergency contraception. We will also **support any local authority who wants to establish byelaws to create protest-free buffer zones outside clinics that provide abortion services**.

We know that some women have been failed when they have presented with the pain and suffering of mesh-related complications in our health services. In our first 100 days, we **introduced a Bill to reimburse those who have paid to undergo private mesh removal surgery**. Contracts have also been awarded for private removal surgery outwith Scotland, for those who feel unable to be treated in Scotland, with surgery, travel and associated costs covered.

NHS Gender Identity Services have seen increased demand, leading to longer waiting times. To improve access and delivery over the next three years **we will centrally fund Gender Identity Service improvements until late 2024**. A plan for transformation of these services will be also developed and published by late 2021, and implemented in 2022-2024. This work will include the voices of those with lived experience throughout.

### Learning lessons from the pandemic

The pandemic required an unprecedented response from local and national government, and a wide range of partners. At every step, decisions had to be taken quickly to save lives, reduce the spread of the virus, and protect our health and care services. In making those decisions, we have always been guided by clinical and scientific advice – but we have dealt with an unknown virus and constantly evolving situation. There must be a full and proper opportunity to learn lessons for the future. Within our first 100 days, **the Scottish Government has taken steps towards the establishment of an independent public inquiry into the response to the pandemic**, inviting views on the draft aims and principles of an inquiry. The Inquiry will be statutory and judge-led and we will establish it by the end of this year.

Also within our first 100 days, **we have established a Standing Committee on Pandemics** – an expert group of leading scientists and medical specialists who will advise the Scottish Government on preparing for the threat of future pandemics. It met for the first time in August.



## Chapter 2

### **Scotland as a Land of Opportunity:**

Supporting young people and promoting a fairer and more equal society





**Supporting young people and promoting a fairer and more equal society, within the next 12 months we will:**

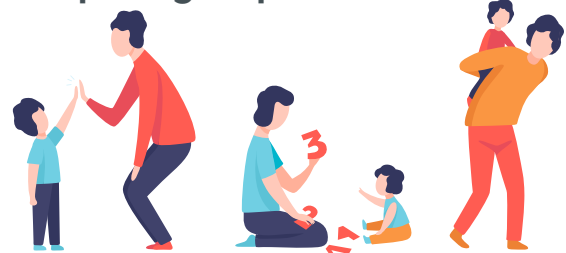
- Provide a £520 payment for every child in receipt of free school meals, ahead of roll-out of the Scottish Child Payment to under 16s.
- Provide a double payment – £460 – of the Carers Allowance Supplement, provided Parliament passes the necessary legislation.
- Roll out two significant new devolved benefits for disabled people – Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment.
- Provide recurring funding of £145.5 million to additional teachers and support assistants recruited this year and through the pandemic permanent.
- Provide free school lunches for all primary school children, including provision in the school holidays for those who need it most.
- Take steps towards the introductions of a Bairns’ Hoose.
- Consult on a draft Human Rights Bill which will incorporate the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, alongside three international treaties for the empowerment of women, disabled people and minority ethnic people.
- Bring forward the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.

Although they’ve been protected from the worst health impacts of the virus, young people have missed out on time at school and university, been separated from their peers, and lost opportunities to celebrate the rites of passage and make the memories that many of us took for granted. More than that, however, they are faced with uncertainties for the future. Meanwhile the pandemic has hit low-income and disadvantaged families particularly hard, and risked the progress we have made to tackle child poverty and create a fairer Scotland. While it’s been a difficult 18 months for young people, their families, and teachers, we are determined that they don’t bear a long term burden.

We will drive forward recovery of our education sector, and renew our offer of help and support to children and families, with a focus on those who need it most. To succeed in being the country we want to be – fairer, greener, and more prosperous – we’ve established a national mission to tackle child poverty, and will work to make Scotland a land of opportunity for everyone. As we recover from the pandemic, we’ll deliver on our commitment to make Scotland a more equal and inclusive society that respects, protects, and fulfils human rights – taking new and ambitious action to tackle inequality and discrimination in all its forms.

**We will extend the Scottish Child Payment**

**to under 16’s by the end of 2022, then double it to £20 per week as quickly as possible.**



**Until the Scottish Child Payment is fully rolled out, we will make an annual “bridging payment” of £520 for children in receipt of free school meals.**



### A national mission to eradicate child poverty

We cannot ever accept the inevitability of poverty, or that any child will be born into and grow up in it, with the devastating lifelong consequences that can bring. Tackling child poverty is a national mission – it is not something the Scottish Government can do alone, and it takes all of us to deliver the change needed. In March next year we will publish our **Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26**, laying out a route map to meet an interim target to reduce relative child poverty to 18% by 2023-24. **Backed by a further £50 million Tackling Child Poverty Fund**, the plan will set out a series of policies to get us on course towards our ultimate aim of eradicating child poverty. This will be a significant cross-government and society-wide effort, and sits alongside our work to drive up good, fair, and inclusive employment opportunities.

Last year we successfully launched our new **Scottish Child Payment**, providing low-income families with £10 per week for each child under 6. **We will roll out Scottish Child Payment to children under 16 by the end of 2022**, helping lift around 20,000 children out of poverty, based on updated estimates, and dependent on the DWP providing data for 6-16s.

Until then, **we will make “bridging payments” of £520 in 2021 and 2022 to low-income families with children in receipt of free school meals.** Within the Scottish Government’s first 100 days, we have worked with local authorities to provide a further £100 for each eligible child and young person, in addition to the £100 payment at Easter, with a further £160 to follow at both the October and Winter breaks. In 2022 families will receive four payments of £130.

We will significantly increase the level of the Scottish Child Payment, **doubling it to £20 per child, per week** following the planned roll-out to 6 to 15 year olds and as quickly as possible within the lifetime of the Parliament. This will provide families with £1,040 in annual support for every child under 16, lifting 40,000 children out of poverty. We will actively seek ways to accelerate the implementation of that commitment, including looking at options for staged increases, with final decisions about timing and increases factoring in to the spending review, and taken in the relevant budget.

We will also deliver an **additional £130 Pandemic Support Payment** by the end of October for every household who received Council Tax Reduction in April – an investment of up to £65 million benefitting over 500,000 households.

## We will publish our Tackling child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26

which will outline our route map  
for meeting our interim target to  
reduce relative child poverty.

18%  
by 2023/24.







In recognition of the need to support people who experience food insecurity, in a dignified way, we will bring forward a **plan that outlines the steps that we will take to end the need for food banks** as a primary response. As a first step, we will support local partnerships to prioritise access to emergency income and money advice alongside holistic support services, to make food banks the last port of call.

We will also support families in poverty to improve their income in other ways, investing £10 million over the Parliament to **increase access to advice services** to maximise incomes, tackle the poverty penalty and improve wellbeing. This will be in accessible settings with a focus on families. It will include expanding Welfare Advice and Health Partnerships, placing money advisors in up to 150 GP practices in some of Scotland's most deprived areas, alongside expanding on pilot work providing advice in education settings.

We will **provide frontline and second-tier advice and debt services with more than £12 million of funding this year**, enabling them to help households and individuals who are struggling with problem debt to get their budgets back on an even keel. And we will spearhead a national campaign, working across government and with stakeholders, to make families aware of the support they're entitled to and encourage them to take it up.

In the longer-term, **we are committed to delivering a Minimum Income Guarantee**, following the recommendation of the Social Renewal Advisory Board. This could be revolutionary in our fight against poverty; an assurance that no one will fall below a set income level which allows them to live a dignified life, delivered through targeted payments and other types of support or services provided or subsidised by the state. Within our first 100 days, we have convened a steering group, with cross-Party and expert representation, to design a future Minimum Income Guarantee, and a discussion platform to solicit views and ideas from stakeholders and members of the public. Linked to this work, **we will explore how the concept of Universal Basic Services** can contribute towards a minimum standard of living, via services such as transport, digital and childcare.

Delivering our ambitions to eradicate child poverty is at risk from the actions of the UK Government, not least the threat of scrapping the £20 a week uplift to universal credit and working tax credit – actively harming more than 450,000 families in Scotland. It must be retained. We will explore ways to improve support given to people impacted by the benefit cap, within the scope of devolved powers, as part of our new deal for tenants.

To level the playing field for all children, and their families, we will tackle the costs of the school day – ensuring that children from less well-off families have as much chance to participate, learn and thrive as their peers. As of this July, **we've funded the removal of core curriculum charges, for the costs of resources and materials for practical and arts lessons, and fees for music tuition**, so that income isn't a barrier to taking up a subject or instrument. To create a professionally-recognised national music teaching force, we will ensure Scotland's school-based instrumental music teachers receive General Teaching Council for Scotland registration and regulation.

**We will make sure that pupils from lower-income families can take part in school trips**, providing support for children to go on curriculum-related trips and activities, and Primary 6/7 residentials, and giving secondary school pupils the right to go on at least one “optional” trip during their time at school.

**In our first 100 days, we have also increased the School Clothing Grant for pupils from low-income households**, to £120 for primary school pupils and £150 for secondary school pupils. We will increase the grant every year by inflation, and will support automation of payments, so families can get it without applying. During this Parliament, we will introduce statutory guidance for schools, increasing the use of generic items of uniform and reducing costs for families.

We will also **work with The Hunter Foundation over the next five years on the Supporting Young People through Mentoring and Leadership programme**, supporting up to 15,000 care experienced and disadvantaged young people across 300 schools to reach their full potential. This builds on the work of our Social Innovation Partnership with The Hunter Foundation and a range of social entrepreneurs, which designs, tests, and scales different approaches to tackling poverty, with a focus on supporting people’s wellbeing and capabilities.

To support young people after they leave school, and throughout their transition into the adult world, we’ll develop a **School Leavers’ Toolkit**. The toolkit will bring together practical information about budgeting and finances, as well as guidance for school leavers on how to exercise their full democratic rights as citizens. We will also treble funding for STUC Unions into Schools ‘Better way to work’ project.

### **A strong social security system that treats people with dignity, fairness and respect**

We have always been clear that we see social security as an investment in people and the social security system Scotland continues to build has dignity, fairness and respect at its heart. The economic impact of this new social security system goes beyond the benefits that it will pay – it is also a major employer. In line with the introduction of further devolved benefits, Social Security Scotland expect to recruit more than 2,000 permanent employees over the next year. This will provide new opportunities for secure, long-term employment, while boosting our investment on the waterfront in Dundee and in the centre of Glasgow. As a result of this recruitment, by autumn 2022, our new social security agency will directly employ more than 3,500 people around Scotland.

By Autumn 2022,

## **Social Security Scotland**

**will directly employ more than 3,500 people around Scotland, and over the next year will recruit more than 2,000 additional, permanent staff.**



In the government's first 100 days we introduced legislation to make an **extra payment of Carer's Allowance Supplement**. If passed by Parliament, we will provide a double payment of £460 in December to an estimated 91,000 unpaid carers, in recognition of the additional caring responsibilities and associated strains and costs they have had to meet through the pandemic. We will also develop and launch our remaining devolved benefits, which had to be paused during the pandemic, including **our new Scottish Carer's Assistance**, replacing Carer's Allowance. Following discussions with carers and organisations that support them we have developed a series of aims for Scottish Carer's Assistance and a range of options for improvement. We are currently engaging with stakeholders on a detailed options appraisal process and will consult on proposed changes in Winter 2021/22.

In July we launched **Child Disability Payment in 3 pilot areas**, the first of Scotland's new disability benefits, supporting 38,000 children and their families in the next financial year alone with the costs of illness or disability. It will be available throughout all of Scotland from November 2021. The rollout of Child Disability Payment also marks the start of our multi-year programme of case transfer, during which we'll move the entitlements of nearly 700,000 existing disability and carer benefit clients safely and securely from the UK Government's systems to Social Security Scotland. And next spring we will pilot **Adult Disability Payment** – replacing the UK Government's controversial Personal Independence Payment – the biggest and most complex of our new Scottish disability assistance, rolling out nationally next summer.

In winter 2021, we'll make payments of **Child Winter Heating Assistance**, with an extension of the eligibility criteria to include young people aged 16 to 18 with a terminal illness or severe disability. This will help the families of a further 3,900 young people with managing pressures caused by winter heating costs. We'll also introduce a further two new benefits to support households with their heating costs during the winter: investing £180 million in

**Pension Age Winter Heating Assistance**, which can be put towards fuel bills, and a new **Low Income Winter Heating Assistance**, providing around 400,000 households on low incomes with a guaranteed annual payment of £50.

We'll also **guarantee the budget of the Scottish Welfare Fund at £41 million per year**, an important social safety net administered through local authorities, and start an independent review this year to understand how it's working and whether there are measures that we could put in place to improve it.

We will **explore systems of automatic payment for devolved social security benefits**, to maximise uptake. This includes linking Scottish Child Payment with Best Start Grant, and linking data to trigger automation of local authority entitlements, and "passported" entitlements based on receipt of devolved disability benefits.

### **The best place in the world to grow up**

We want to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up; levelling the playing field so that inequality and circumstance don't prevent children from fulfilling their potential. That starts from birth, and **we will continue to fund Scotland's Baby Box** – which had 98% uptake by expectant parents last year – providing essential items, useful resources for parents and a place for a baby to sleep from Day 1.



As of this August, we've delivered on our commitment to **expand entitlement to funded early learning and childcare**, from 600 hours a year to 1140, for all three- and four-year-olds, and some two-year-olds (those with experience of care, children of care-experienced parents, and those from lower income families). The new entitlement will save families in Scotland an estimated £4,900 per child, and benefit around 130,000 children a year. We have now set out our ambition to **provide funded early learning to all one- and two-year-olds**, starting in the course of this Parliament with children from low-income households. This year we will begin engagement with families, the early learning sector and academic experts to design how the new offer will work in practice.

**We will also build a system of wraparound childcare by the end of this Parliament**, providing care before and after school, all year round, and supporting parents – particularly on low-incomes – to have secure and stable employment. Those on the lowest incomes will pay nothing, and others will make fair and affordable contributions. This offer will also reduce inequalities in access to a range of activities round about the school day, particularly for those children who may benefit most. To inform policy development, we are supporting 18 pilot projects, testing innovative models of school age childcare for families most at risk of poverty, and will undertake an evaluation of these by September 2022. Over this year, we will establish a diverse and inclusive public panel made up of parents and carers and children and young people, and run a series of workshops to ensure user experience is front and centre in our system design. And, we will publish a 5 year delivery plan within the next year, setting out the phasing and timescales for delivery to the end of the Parliament, engaging stakeholders in its development.

We will  
**Build a new system of wraparound childcare -**  
**ensuring low income families with school age children have access to free childcare, before and after school and over the holidays.**



No child should be hungry when in school or early years provision. We will ensure that children have access to high-quality, nutritious food, in both early learning settings and schools. Within the government's first 100 days, we have reached agreement with local authorities to introduce universal free school lunches for primary 4 and 5 children, building on existing provision for P1-P3 pupils. We will now roll this out even further – **from August 2022 we will fund free lunches for all primary school pupils**. In the next year, we will develop plans to deliver free breakfasts to all primary and special school children, and start to pilot provision. We will also commence the phased roll-out of a food offer during the school holidays, starting with those who will benefit the most. As we design a system of wraparound childcare, we will integrate food and childcare provision wherever possible.



This summer, we introduced the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme, providing funding for pre-school children to be offered free milk and a fruit or vegetable snack every day at their nursery or childminder's. **From next August we'll also make milk available for primary age pupils** and develop a pilot programme for secondary age pupils.

We'll boost low-income families' access to good-quality food for their children through Best Start Foods, a payment parents can use to buy nutritious items during pregnancy and for children under three. Within our first 100 days **we've increased the value of Best Start Foods** to £4.50 per week per child (or £9 per week for babies under one), and will increase eligibility later in the parliamentary term, supporting up to 60,000 additional people each year.

**We are also continuing to support the roll out of the Food for Life programme**, increasing the amount of healthy and locally sourced food served by local authorities in early years settings and primary schools, with the aim of having all local authorities gaining accreditation in the coming years.

Away from school, we are ensuring that children all over Scotland have access to fun, safe environments to play and socialise in. In our first 100 days, **the Scottish Government has already delivered our £20 million Summer Offer for Children and Young People**. £15 million has been specifically targeted at those who have been hardest hit, with those aged up to 25 from low-income households being provided with opportunities they may otherwise struggle to access. £5 million was provided to a coalition of 18 national partners to strengthen and build on existing summer provision. Over the course of this Parliament, we will **invest £60 million to renew play parks in Scotland**, so children have access to high-quality outdoor play in their own communities, with the first funding allocation of £5 million agreed with local authorities in our first 100 days.




### **A world-class learning experience for every young person**

The pandemic has been a major test of our education system. Staff have had to adjust to teaching online and social distancing in the classroom, while learners have had to cope with missed lessons, time away from their friends and worries about how their work will be assessed. The response of staff through that experience, and how young people adapted, has been awe inspiring. Recovering from the pandemic will require a concerted investment in our learners, teachers and facilities, but it also presents an opportunity to do things differently, so we emerge with an education system that offers a world-class experience for everyone.


Over the course of this Parliament **the Scottish Government will implement the 12 recommendations of the OECD review of the curriculum**, published in June. This year, we will take forward a number of initiatives to ensure we maintain momentum, including consideration of the OECD's work on qualifications and assessment, engaging with teachers, learners and parents to consider the changes needed to the curriculum, and ensuring that learners are at the heart of our reforms through a newly established council of young people, chaired by the Education Secretary.





# Scottish Attainment Challenge

**£1 billion**  
over this Parliament to tackle the poverty-related attainment gap.



**£215 million**  
with the first installment paid to schools, local authorities and delivery partners in the government's first 100 days.

We will also move the role of inspection out of Education Scotland, and replace the Scottish Qualifications Authority, considering a new, specialist agency that would take responsibility for both the curriculum and assessment, so that the two are fully aligned. Professor Ken Muir will lead this work during the course of the year, before making recommendations designed to ensure that schools and learners are provided with the best possible support, with consultation and engagement during the autumn of 2021 before a final report is produced in early 2022.

As part of wider reforms, we will review the current role of measures and indicators associated with Curriculum for Excellence to ensure an appropriate balance between quality assurance and improvement within learning, with sustainable workloads for teachers. We will establish a regular cycle of collaborative reviews for Curriculum for Excellence, and the measures and indicators that underpin our understanding of progress, to deliver continuous improvement, and ensure that schools and teachers are resourced to deliver it.

Across our reforms, closing the poverty-related attainment gap and giving every young person the chance to fulfil their potential remains one of this government's defining missions – and speaks to our wider mission to eradicate child poverty. While that is a long-term ambition, we made good progress over the last Parliament – but still have significant work ahead which the pandemic has made harder. We will provide £1 billion across this Parliament for the Scottish Attainment Challenge, including a refresh of the programme from 2022/23 to further empower Headteachers, support education recovery plans and improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty. In our first 100 days, the Scottish Government confirmed the first £215 million of that £1 billion, including:

- £43 million for the Challenge Authority Programme, providing funding to the nine local authorities with the highest concentrations of deprivation
- £7 million for the Schools Programme, providing support to an additional 73 primary and secondary schools outwith the nine Challenge Authorities which have the highest concentrations of low-income pupils
- £147 million Pupil Equity Funding, providing direct funding to 97% of schools based on the number of P1-S3 pupils registered for free school meals – including a one-year uplift of £20 million with a focus on recovery
- £11.6 million Care Experienced Children and Young People Funding, available to be invested to support all care experienced children and young people aged up to 26
- £6.6 million for a number of National Programmes, including support for a number of third sector organisations providing targeted work to raise attainment and improve equity.

Delivering these ambitions will only be possible with the continued world-class efforts of teachers who have borne much of the strain of the past 18 months. As we recover from the crisis, our teachers need more resources, and crucially, more time away from the classroom. Over the course of the Parliament, we will provide funding to support the recruitment of at least 3,500 teachers and 500 classrooms - over and above the 1,400 recruited during the pandemic - with further funding to enable councils to make these posts permanent. This will give teachers the capacity to reduce contact time by an hour and a half a week which they can use to prepare for lessons, raise standards and undertake professional development.

**Over the course of the Parliament, we will provide funding to recruit at least**



**3,500 additional teachers and 500 classroom assistants**

In our first 100 days, we provided councils with £50 million to recruit an additional 1000 teachers and 500 classroom assistants this year – nearly half of the total. From 2022-23, £65.5 million will be allocated annually to councils to help make these staff permanent. Funding of £80 million that helped to recruit 1,400 teachers and 250 support staff has also been made permanent and will be allocated annually to councils.

**We will provide a digital device for every school - aged child**

**helping an estimated 700,000 children by 2026.**



Remote learning during the pandemic has underlined the importance for children and young people having access to a digital device and connectivity to use it. Over the course of this Parliament the Scottish Government will provide a **digital device for every school-aged child** – helping an estimated 700,000 children by 2026. In our first 100 days, we have begun the planning for that commitment. We will also develop a **National Digital Academy**, bringing provision of Highers to a wide variety of learners irrespective of location, school, or age, with scoping work in the coming year to support its design.

Enhancing children's digital learning and capability will set them up for the jobs of the future; but we also want to encourage them to care about and for their natural environment. We will continue to promote and support **outdoor learning**, including trialling Scotland's first outdoor primary learning facilities. And we are working with GTCS to ensure the **climate emergency is properly reflected through initial teacher education**, growing our strong existing suite of professional development resources to ensure our teaching workforce has all the up to date knowledge and skills they require to be able to offer young people the in depth education they need on the global climate crisis.

We will act to close the gap for children and young people with **additional support needs**, developing a new approach for how their achievements and successes are recognised, and fully implementing the findings of the Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Review. We will ensure there is **appropriate career progression and pathways for teachers looking to specialise in Additional Support for Learning** – with the intention that this results in an increase to the number of teachers who specialise in ASL – and explore options for the development of an accredited qualification and registration programme for Additional Support Needs assistants with final proposals to be brought forward by autumn 2023.



We recognise that children and young people's mental health and wellbeing has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. In partnership with local authorities, we have delivered counselling services in schools across Scotland, delivered training for staff and provided guidance on whole-school approaches to mental health and wellbeing. We will implement and embed these approaches, and establish a guarantee of access in school to the mental health and wellbeing support that young people need, including counselling services.

We will take action to combat racism in our schools with **the launch this year of our Race Equality and Anti-Racism in Education Programme**, developing new educational resources in collaboration with stakeholders and practitioners to embed anti-racism across the curriculum; invest in the diversity of the education workforce; and strengthen staff confidence in understanding, teaching about and addressing racism. Where racist incidents do occur, **we will strengthen monitoring and reporting**, to support actions to address, and prevent future, incidents.

We also know that too many children still experience homophobic and transphobic bullying, putting them in danger and damaging their confidence. Starting this year, the Scottish Government will provide funding to support **delivery of the recommendations of the LGBT Inclusive Education Working Group**, moving to eradicate prejudice through providing education, training and resources for school staff.

Navigating sex and relationships is difficult for young people at the best of times – the impact of the pandemic, separating young people from their peers and changing behaviour online, has made it even more difficult. We will develop engaging and relevant guidance and materials to teach young people about **consent and healthy relationships**, supporting the prevention of sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

The Scottish Government is committed to increasing the numbers using and learning Gaelic, and we will maintain our support for Gaelic education, arts and broadcasting. We will bring forward a **Scottish Languages Bill** over the course of the Parliament to take further steps to support the use of Gaelic and the Scots language. We will also explore the creation of a recognised Gàidhealtachd, review the functions and structures of Bòrd na Gàidhlig to ensure Scotland has an effective leadership body, and develop a new national strategic approach to Gaelic medium education (GME) which will encourage the creation of new GME primary and secondary schools.

### Strengthening our world-class further and higher education

Our colleges and universities are a significant driver of our economic success – we will support them to remain at the forefront of our economic recovery: undertaking research and development in the new and emerging low carbon technologies our net zero transition will rely on, training and educating the skilled workforce of the future, and contributing to the success of their communities.



We will maintain our policy of no tuition fees for Scottish students and build on the strong progress already made in helping students from poorer backgrounds into university, implementing the recommendations of the Commissioner for Fair Access – and that must include better financial support, so students can thrive once they are in education. We will start work now to introduce a range of substantial reforms to student support, including a **commitment that the total student support package reaches the equivalent of the Living Wage over the next three years**, including for estranged students. We will also introduce a special support payment so that students on benefits do not lose out because they are in receipt of, or entitled to, student support. We will undertake a review of postgraduate funding, take measures to halt student loan interest during maternity leave, and explore the possibility of introducing guarantorship for estranged students to protect them from exploitation in the housing market.

Within the government's first 100 days we have established a new stakeholder group to review the support provided to students during summer. As an initial step, **we will undertake a 2 year programme, giving students in receipt of the Care Experienced Bursary the option to receive their current funding in 12-monthly payments**. We will use the findings of this to determine whether it should be extended to the undergraduate package from 2024-25.

We will respond to the **SFC's review of university and college provision shortly**, and start work on implementation to ensure that colleges and universities are enabled to support future learners and the economy. We will work with the SFC to develop an **estates strategy for Scotland's colleges**, establishing priorities for investment. The SFC will publish its estates strategy later this year. We will also undertake a review of purpose-built student accommodation in the next twelve months, making recommendations on regulation, affordability and the role of local authorities.

To tackle any digital divide in further and higher education, starting this year **we will invest £5 million a year over the course of this Parliament for universities, colleges, and community learning providers to purchase digital equipment** and provide access to Wi-Fi to enable students who, owing to low incomes, can't otherwise access online learning.

We will also safeguard students' mental health and wellbeing, developing a student mental health action plan, and deliver our commitment for an additional **80 counsellors in universities and colleges in the next two years**, backed by £4.2 million this year.

## An additional 80 counsellors in universities and colleges

in the next two years,  
with £4.2 million to support  
recruitment this year.



The UK's exit from the EU risks damage to Scotland's international standing, and reduces opportunities for Scottish students to travel and study in Europe. We will develop a **new strategy for international education**, to promote Scotland's education offer globally, increase the number of international students, and maintain our links with the EU. We will also develop a **Scottish Education Exchange Programme** to support the international mobility of staff and learners, and work to re-secure Scotland's access to the Erasmus + Programme.

Community learning and development provides vital support to some of the most vulnerable learners to increase their skills for learning, life, and work, and can be the first step for many into further education and learning. Over the course of this Parliament, we will review the regulations for community learning and development, to ensure that they are fit for purpose, increase investment to support the sector and provide additional grant funding to increase opportunities for vulnerable learners.

### Delivering a revolution in children's rights: Keeping The Promise

In March this year, the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, a landmark piece of legislation which aims to **incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law** to the maximum extent possible and signals a revolution in children's rights. While a judgement is awaited on the UK Government's challenge on the legislative competence of certain provisions of the bill, between now and March 2024, we will invest £4 million to support public services to consistently uphold children's rights.



In 2020, the Scottish Government made a promise to the care community. With a recovery focused on the wellbeing of people, and aligning services to the needs of individuals, now, more than ever, is the time for bold, decisive, and collective action. Although we cannot legislate for love, we can help create a supportive and nurturing environment in which love is possible for everyone.

We **will join up and work with partners in the public and third sectors to #KeepThePromise** – bringing transformational change to the lives of care experienced children and young people and their families, and placing love and relationships at the centre for every child with experience of Scotland's 'care system'. We are already working across over 40 areas of policy, towards the priorities identified in The Promise Scotland Plan 21-24 and Change Programme ONE, in the initial phases of implementing the conclusions of the Independent Care Review in their entirety by 2030. We will take forward significant and sustained investment, alongside new ways of working, and ensure that children, young people and families benefit from wide-ranging support to recover from the pandemic – helping them to flourish, and play their full part in building a wellbeing economy.

We'll **introduce our new Care Experience Grant**, a £200 annual payment over 10 years to young people with care experience between the age of 16 and 26. This will provide an additional layer of financial security for those with care experience who may not have the same family support network which many of their peers can draw on. Initial work to design the new grant and explore the most appropriate delivery option is underway.

This year, we will work with local authorities to introduce a **minimum national allowance for foster and kinship care**, to improve consistency and transparency for children, their families and their carers. We will also continue our work with the Kinship Care Collaborative to deliver national and local improvements to better support children living in kinship care.

## We will introduce our new Care Experience Grant

supporting young people with  
care experience between the  
age of 16 and 26.

Annual  
payment of  
**£200**  
over 10 years



Our promise included, 'where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way'. This requires a shift in investment to prevent families reaching crisis point. **We are committed to investing at least £500m over the life of this Parliament to create a Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.** This will enable the building of universal, holistic support services, available in communities across Scotland, giving families access to the help they need, where and when they need it. This will help reduce the need for crisis intervention and contribute to improving people's lives across a wide range of different areas, including but not limited to, child and adolescent mental health, child poverty, alcohol and drugs misuse and educational attainment. Fundamentally, this is about significantly reducing the number of children and young people who are living away from their families by 2030.

We are committed to investing  
**at least  
 £500 million**

over the life of  
 this Parliament  
 to create a  
**Whole Family  
 Wellbeing Fund.**



Alongside this, we will help children in the ‘care system’ can protect, maintain and mend the relationships that are important to them, ensuring they can live with their siblings where it is appropriate, putting in place mechanisms by 2023 to measure progress in reducing sibling separations.

These measures alone will not #KeepThePromise – but radical change like this will ensure we shift the balance of investment in families towards prevention. Our ambition is that, **from 2030, we will be investing at least 5% of all community-based health and social care spend in preventative whole family support measures** that will enable us to create a Scotland where more children will only know care, compassion and love, and not a ‘care system’.

The human cost of the failure of Scotland’s ‘care system’ is borne by the person who grew up in it – and is lifelong: by the child who moved so many times they did not settle or thrive at school, leaving with few or no qualifications and little prospect of further education or employment; by the child who was not supported to develop social connections, or with their mental health, and grew up lonely; by the child who was not supported to heal from their trauma, turned to drugs and alcohol to help them cope and developed an addiction; by the child who left the ‘care system’ before being ready for adulthood and became homeless; by the child who got involved in the criminal justice system then went

to prison; by the child who died much younger than Scotland’s average life expectancy.

Alongside our commitment to #KeepThePromise, actions set out right across this Programme for Government, will help provide children and families with the strong foundations every child needs to thrive. All children, regardless of their circumstances, will be supported to stay with their family where it’s safe to do so, have intensive educational and health support if required and flourish as they live their healthy and happy life. By working cohesively across Government and together with partners in local government, health boards, the third sector and the care community we will bridge the gap of progressive intent with our policy ambitions ensuring improvements are felt day to day in the lives of the children and families they are intended for.

As the next significant step in furthering and strengthening children’s rights, all children in Scotland who have been victims or witnesses of abuse or violence, as well as children under the minimum age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused significant harm, will have **access to a “Bairns’ Hoose” by 2025:** a child-friendly environment providing them with trauma informed recovery, improving their experience of the criminal justice system, and aiming to prevent them being re-traumatised. An evidence summary report for the development of Bairns’ Hooses will be published in September 2021, with recommendations for the development of Barnahus Standards. The Barnahus Standards Development Group will then draft standards to go out to consultation by September 2022.

The Bairns’ Hoose approach sits at the heart of our wider work to take a rights-based, trauma informed approach for vulnerable children. From this year, we will scale up trauma-training for staff in children’s services, so they’re better able to support young people who have been through psychological trauma. We’ll also safeguard young people within the youth justice system, supporting a presumption against under 18s in the Criminal Justice System, keeping them out of young offenders’ institutes where possible and appropriate, while ensuring

that victims receive the support they need. We will bring forward a **Children's Care and Justice Bill** to support this transformation. Over the course of the Parliament, we will work with The Promise Scotland to undertake a **redesign of the Children's Hearings System**, to rethink the structures, processes and legislation that underpin it, and ensure that courts can facilitate child-friendly justice that upholds children's rights. Sheriff David Mackie has been appointed to chair this work.

### **An inclusive, empowered, more equal Scotland**

We are determined that the Scotland that emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic is more progressive, more inclusive and more equal, and that people and communities feel valued, included and empowered to claim their human rights. This will be central to our forthcoming COVID Recovery Strategy.

In the coming year, we will begin consulting on a **strategy to embed equality, inclusion and human rights across the public sector**, improving how we centre equality, inclusion and human rights in all government policies, decisions and spending. We will begin to implement the strategy by the end of 2024. Later this year, we will **consult on the operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland** and potential regulatory changes, including a new duty on relevant public bodies to develop accessible and inclusive communications, and expanding existing duties to include **reporting on disability and ethnicity pay gaps**. We will further embed equality and human rights within all stages of the Scottish Government's Budget process, taking account of the Equality Budget Advisory Group's recommendations, to ensure our spend advances equality and human rights for all of Scotland's people. And we will also strengthen the focus on child poverty within new guidance on the Fairer Scotland Duty which provides a statutory basis for consideration of socio-economic disadvantage in public body decision making.

In the coming year, we will consult on a **new Human Rights Bill**. This will be part of taking forward the 30 recommendations from the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership, and will incorporate, as far as possible within devolved competence, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, alongside three other international human rights treaties for the empowerment of women, disabled people and Minority Ethnic people. The Bill will also include a right to a healthy environment, a right for older people to ensure equal access to their human rights so that they can live a life of dignity and independence, and provision to ensure equal access to everyone to the rights contained in the Bill. A Bill Advisory Board has been established, chaired by the Minister for Equalities and Older People, comprising a stakeholder group representing different aspects of the Bill.

We will work in partnership with disabled people to draw up a **new Disability Equality Plan**, which we will publish in 2022. Alongside this work, **we will invest £10 million to increase the number of Changing Places toilets across the country**, and support mobile Changing Places toilets to allow disabled people easier access to events and outdoor venues. We will also begin work on a new **National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy** to support disabled young people as they make the transition to adult life, and provide them and those who look after them with joined-up guidance and support to unlock better educational and employment opportunities and health outcomes.

To uphold and protect the rights of people with autism or learning/intellectual disabilities, we will take forward a **Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill**, with scoping work carried out in 2021-22. We will also provide an independent advocate for people to secure the protections of such a law, through a **Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodiversity Commissioner**.

To advance race equality and tackle all forms of racism, we will shortly launch an **Immediate Priorities Plan up to 2023**. This will set out actions to tackle structural disadvantages faced by Minority Ethnic communities, who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including fulfilling the recommendations of the Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity. It will also act as a foundation for development of a **long-term anti-racist programme of systemic change**, to ensure that by 2030 our Minority Ethnic communities experience greater equality. Alongside this, we will also continue to implement the Gypsy/ Travellers Action Plan, working with COSLA to deliver this important commitment to improving the lives of Scotland's Gypsy/Traveller community.

The knock-on effects of the pandemic have exacerbated **social isolation and loneliness** in our communities. Within our first 100 days the Government has announced £1 million funding to projects tackling social isolation and loneliness, and started development of a new five-year plan, backed by investment of £10 million. Over the course of the Parliament, we'll implement that plan – putting forward £5 million in its first two years, with immediate actions, longer-term capacity building and tackling the barriers that prevent people from connecting with each other.

Faith and belief groups have been active partners with Scottish Government in supporting vulnerable communities to deal with some of the hardest impacts of COVID-19, including social isolation and loneliness, vaccination hesitancy, bereavement, counselling, and support for refugees. We will set up a working group involving faith and belief partners which will, by the end of December 2021, develop and agree an enhanced and refocused approach to Scottish Government engagement with faith and belief communities, as Scotland seeks to recover from the pandemic and strengthen its resilience.

In 2017 the First Minister established the **National Advisory Council on Women and Girls (NACWG)** to raise awareness of gender inequality, champion

positive progress, and act as a catalyst for change. We will work with the Chairs of NACWG to take forward the proposals in its Next Steps report to ensure that we continue to build on the ambitious recommendations of the Council to advance gender equality.

We will publish a **Hate Crime Strategy** in 2022, which will contribute towards building more inclusive and resilient communities – making it clear hatred and prejudice will not be tolerated. This will include ensuring more people in Scotland are aware of what hate crime is and how to report it. It is also important that we continue to work with partners to ensure **effective safeguarding** of those individuals who may become vulnerable to divisive and radicalising narratives, in a way that aligns with the needs of communities and the Scottish context.

While the COVID-19 pandemic delayed our work to establish a more straightforward system for obtaining legal gender recognition, trans people should not have to go through a degrading, traumatic and intrusive process to be legally recognised in their gender. Within the next year we will bring forward the **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**, removing the current medical requirements and reducing the time that applicants for gender recognition need to have lived in their acquired gender from two years to three months. The changes will improve the lives of trans people, while ensuring the legislation doesn't affect the rights and protections that women currently have under the Equality Act.

We will protect LGBT people from harm by **banning the damaging promotion and practice of conversion therapy**, bringing forward legislation that is as comprehensive as possible within devolved powers by the end of 2023, if UK Government proposals do not go far enough. Following receipt of the recommendations of the Working Group on Non-Binary Equality, we will develop an action plan by spring 2023 to improve non-binary equality and wellbeing.





## Chapter 3

### **A Net Zero Nation:**

Ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, in a just and fair way





**To help end Scotland's contribution to climate change, restore nature and enhance our climate resilience, in a just and fair way, within the next 12 months we will:**

- Support a world-changing agreement at COP26 – having already published an indicative Nationally Determined Contribution, setting out how Scotland will become a net zero nation by 2045.
- Increase funding for home energy and green heating systems installations; provide £50 million for Warmer Homes Scotland to support those in fuel poverty through the heat transition; and investing £30 million in green heating and energy efficiency projects in social housing.
- Implement the first Just Transition Plan, for the energy sector, alongside a refreshed Energy Strategy.
- Invest £240 million in an Energy Transition Programme – funding industry to play a leading role in the development and deployment of new, low carbon technologies, and support the development of hydrogen and carbon capture and storage.
- Work with the Bus Decarbonisation Taskforce to shape the journey to a greener, more efficient public sector bus fleet – backed by £50 million this year through the new Scottish Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund.
- Publish a new biodiversity strategy underpinned by a 5 year delivery plan, including changes in the way we use and manage land and our approach to protecting habitats and ecosystems.
- Provide £22 million for the restoration of degraded peatlands in 2021-22 as part of our £250 million commitment to restore 250,000 hectares by 2030, and £150 million to accelerate progress towards our commitment for 18,000 hectares of tree planting a year by 2024.
- Legislate to end the supply and manufacture of the single use plastic items most commonly found littered.

Our natural environment is our greatest national asset, and vital to our health, wellbeing and economy. The need for urgent, transformative action to tackle the global crises of climate change and ecological decline is clear. Scotland was one of the first countries in the world to declare a global climate emergency, with world leading targets to end our contribution to climate change by 2045. We are already over halfway there, and ahead of the rest of the UK – but despite strong progress, we know that there is a significant challenge ahead to become a net zero nation.

We will redouble our efforts to get on track to meet our emissions targets in a fair and just way that leaves no one behind. Building on our updated Climate Change Plan, published in December 2020, which includes nearly 150 policies to accelerate progress and provide a clear and credible pathway to meeting targets out to 2032, we will deliver an ambitious package of measures to decarbonise the way we heat our homes and buildings, our manufacturing, and agriculture. We will revolutionise transport, making it greener and more efficient. We will take significant steps to protect and restore nature, to help foster greater resilience,

and secure the wellbeing of our people and our planet. And we will accelerate progress to meet our ambitious waste reduction, recycling, and climate change targets – enabling Scotland to be a zero waste nation. And, in parallel to reducing emissions, we will ensure adaptation to the impacts of climate change which are now a reality.

Demonstrating a credible pathway to achieving the interim 2030 target and beyond, we will set out the process to deliver a draft of the next Climate Change Plan for consideration in the first half of this parliamentary session.

**A just transition to net zero**

At the heart of our efforts will be a defining mission for a just transition to net zero – leaving no person, industry or community behind. We will support the transformation of industries, helping businesses to adapt and innovate, and working with communities to make them cleaner, safer and more accessible. And we will realise the collective benefits of ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, and helping tackle child and fuel poverty, by protecting existing jobs and creating new ones, with fair work principles embedded.

The Scottish Government established the independent Just Transition Commission (JTC) in 2019, to provide advice on how to apply just transition principles in Scotland. Earlier this year, the Commission published its final advice, [A National Mission for a fairer, greener Scotland](#), with 24 headline recommendations. We will implement those recommendations across this Parliament, and will retain a JTC to advise on their delivery. **We have now published our initial response to the JTC, including actions against each of the 24 headline recommendations:**

Our response to the JTC also set out our approach to Just Transition Plans, which will be developed for sectors and regions across Scotland, and support delivery of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation. We have just published the draft Just Transition Planning Framework as part of that response which commits to co-designing each plan to ensure those impacted will have a voice in how they are developed. This Framework also confirms that the first Just Transition Plan will be for the energy sector as part of the refreshed Energy Strategy, with detail on the scheduling of further plans to follow.

Headline JTC recommendation	Scottish Government initial response
Just Transition plans for high-emitting industrial sectors of the Scottish economy and include clear milestones out to 2045	We have published a National Just Transition Planning Framework and will engage widely on this in the year ahead. We will work with industry, workforce and local communities to consult on the best way to develop and implement sectoral Just Transition Plans. We have committed to publishing our first Just Transition Plan as part of the forthcoming Scottish Energy Strategy, in addition to announcing a ten-year £500 million just transition fund for the North East and Moray. Our National Strategy for Economic Transformation will represent a coherent Green Industrial Strategy for Scotland, supported by the Just Transition Plans for industry. To support businesses, we will consult on applying conditionality to public funding, including a requirement for annual public disclosure on how climate change will affect large businesses, and the role of Just Transition Plans.
Establish a Just Transition Plan for Scotland’s land and agriculture and include clear milestones out to 2045	We have published a draft Transition Planning Framework and will engage widely on this in the year ahead. We will continue to work with stakeholders to set out a Just Transition Plan for land and agriculture in time for the post-common agricultural policy (CAP) subsidy regime.
Ensure sufficiently developed roadmaps exist for the net zero transition in Scotland, including for key technology options	We have committed to produce roadmaps for key technologies and to incorporate existing roadmaps as we develop Just Transition Plans. The first of these, our Hydrogen Action Plan, will be published later in the coming year setting out how we plan to grow this technology in Scotland. We will actively explore opportunities for developing new and emerging net zero technologies and sectors, including those rooted in natural capital and our environmental investments.

<b>Headline JTC recommendation</b>	<b>Scottish Government initial response</b>
The public sector must be more prescriptive and strategic in its use of funding streams to build strong and resilient local supply chains	We will continue to build on our Supply Chains Development Programme, developing a single strategic method for aligning low-carbon funding to deliver maximum economic benefit for supply chains in Scotland. We will commission the Scottish Science Advisory Council to better understand how research and innovation, including from our world-class universities, can help us build competitive advantage in key industries of the future, not least those that take full advantage of net zero technologies and innovation.
All levers should be used to achieve increased local content and more competitive Scottish offshore wind projects	We will use the current ScotWind leasing round to secure new opportunities for the Scottish supply chain, by holding successful developers to account on the commitments made in their supply chain development statements. To support this, we commissioned the Scottish Offshore Wind Council to undertake an independent Strategic Investment Analysis to guide our activities and help Scottish firms invest and develop competitive advantage.
All public funding for climate action should be conditional on Fair Work terms	We are consulting in the autumn on the vision for Scotland becoming a Fair Work Nation, including our ambitions for a just transition to net zero. Furthermore we will apply criteria on Real Living Wage and channels for effective workers' voice by summer 2022, and consider how the conditions can be applied to non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). We will introduce Fair Work standards as a condition to public sector heat and energy efficiency contracts. We will consult with the Fair Work Convention regarding development of a monitoring framework for just transition ahead of the next Climate Change Plan.
Lay the groundwork for a flexible skills and education system that can meet the needs of net zero while addressing existing inequality in the labour market	The Implementation Plan for the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan (CESAP) outlines an ambitious, cohesive approach to green skills and green jobs. We will refresh our internationally-recognised Learning for Sustainability Action Plan in partnership with campaigners. This cross-curricular entitlement for all learners aims to ensure a whole school approach to the climate emergency. As part of our STEM strategy we are working across all sectors of education to change perceptions about STEM and challenge assumptions about who does what job in relation to gender and wider inequalities.
Create a skills guarantee for workers in carbon-intensive sectors	We will design and implement a skills guarantee for workers in carbon-intensive sectors and deliver this as part of the Green Jobs Workforce Academy. We will continue to support the Energy Skills Alliance and press for the issue of skills transferability between energy sub-sectors to be resolved.
Support small and medium sized enterprises to invest in their workforces	We will pilot and evaluate new models of apprenticeship in sectors central to the transition, to help address barriers faced by SMEs. We will also build a 'toolkit' to help small/micro businesses develop the skills and knowledge they need for net zero. Collectively, this will inform our understanding of the challenges SMEs face and inform future action and funding.

<b>Headline JTC recommendation</b>	<b>Scottish Government initial response</b>
Equip farmers and land managers with the skills, training, and advice they need	In our first 100 days, we launched a full and comprehensive review of land based learning. The aim is to increase opportunities for more people, particularly more women, to gain qualifications, training and employment in the land-based and aquaculture sectors.
Conclude the Local Governance Review at the earliest possible date	We will conclude the Local Governance Review and introduce a Local Democracy Bill within this Parliament. The next phases of the review will provide communities with opportunities to pinpoint the powers and resources they need to help tackle climate change.
Implement Green Participatory Budgeting with agreed target levels of funding	We will explore the use of Participatory Budgeting in 2021-22 as part of our wider support for community-led climate action. We will also identify opportunities at COP26 to develop the concept of Participatory Budgeting for climate action – both in Scotland and abroad – and identify opportunities to develop programmes specifically involving schools and young people. We will work with local authorities to embed climate principles into wider participatory budgeting initiatives, building on the agreement between the Scottish Government and COSLA that at least 1% of council budgets will be subject to Participatory Budgeting by 2021-22.
Launch a call to action for engagement with Regional Land Use Partnerships	Regional Land Use Partnerships pilots have been established during 2021 across five areas of Scotland. If the pilots can demonstrate that they meet expectations relating to national outcomes on the environment and climate change, and show that they have taken a democratic, local approach, we will develop plans for a second phase from 2023 building on learning from the five pilots. In areas where Regional Land Use Partnerships have been established, we will launch a call for action to ensure broad membership and participation, and commit to learning from the partnerships to optimise our approach going forwards.
Apply the lessons learned from Scotland's Climate Assembly across the development of all policies for tackling climate change	We will continue to consider the range of mechanisms such as citizens' assemblies, climate conversations and other community climate initiatives, to help inform and support the development of Just Transition plans and build on the legacy of Scotland's Climate Assembly.
Empower and resource Local Authorities to deliver a just and green recovery	We will establish an Energy Agency focused on energy efficiency and the heat transition. We will seek new opportunities to prioritise local and organic produce in public sector menus while bringing forward the Good Food Nation Bill this year which will place duties on Ministers and certain public authorities. We recently published a draft local food strategy for public consultation and will further develop this in support of our vision for healthy, sustainable and local food.

<b>Headline JTC recommendation</b>	<b>Scottish Government initial response</b>
A new “sustainable Scottish” brand should be created to support Scottish agriculture that delivers climate action and to empower consumers to choose sustainably produced food and drink	We will lead work in collaboration with key partners, particularly Scotland Food and Drink, to design and implement a new brand promoting sustainably produced food and drink from Scotland. In the immediate term, we have commissioned Scottish Agriculture Organisation Society (SAOS) to undertake market research to establish demand for a new brand, and possible options.
Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Developers must commit to creating communities that embed low-carbon lifestyles, while improving our health and wellbeing	Subject to Parliamentary approval, we will introduce free bus travel to young people aged under 22 who are resident in Scotland, and commission a Fair Fares Review to ensure a sustainable and integrated approach to transport fares. The upcoming National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) will define 20-minute neighbourhoods, setting out priorities on planning our places with a new emphasis on living locally, giving life to the Place Principle, supporting public health and wellbeing, reducing inequality, and strengthening community resilience to the impacts of climate change. We will lay a draft of NPF4 in the Scottish Parliament this autumn for scrutiny and carry out extensive public consultation on it. We will support planners with spatial data, research and tools to work collaboratively in delivering 20-minute neighbourhood principles. We will continue to promote the Place Standard Tool for community engagement in placemaking, including spreading learning from our climate lens Place Standard to help inform the roll out of 20-minute neighbourhoods across Scotland. Once approved and adopted, NPF4 will have development plan status, meaning its policies have a stronger role in informing day to day decision making in planning.
A statutory public interest test should be developed for any changes in land ownership over a certain threshold	We will develop and implement plans for a statutory public interest test as part of the forthcoming Land Reform Bill, scheduled for this parliamentary term.
Decisive action must be taken to ensure that all consumers are able to benefit from the energy market innovation providing new ways of buying and selling electricity	We will ask Consumer Scotland to consider tracking the impact of decarbonisation on households as part of their workplan for 2022-23, with the Energy Consumers Commission taking this forward in the interim. Our forthcoming Energy Strategy will consider methods of increasing participation in the energy market.



<b>Headline JTC recommendation</b>	<b>Scottish Government initial response</b>
Any additional costs for consumers associated with emissions reduction must be linked to ability to pay	We will publish guiding principles to underpin our commitment that no one is left behind in the heat transition, which will include the effective design and targeting of our fuel poverty and heat in buildings programmes. We will commission further analysis to consider the distributional impacts of decarbonising our homes and buildings, including quantifying the scale of impact and looking at options available to Scottish Government to mitigate these impacts.
The power of public sector pension funds and business support funding must be directed towards ensuring companies align with the just transition to net zero	We will launch a consultation on climate risk reporting and ESG standards for local authority pension funds, in line with the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). We will consider possible guidelines for voluntary financial disclosures about climate risk for Local Government Pension Fund Investments and continue to engage with Scotland's financial sector regarding how they can support our net zero transition. We will convene a group to develop new standards of corporate governance, and explore the possibility of these being used as a precondition for Government funding.
New methods for funding the transition should be developed that mobilise finance towards local projects	We will explore the potential for local climate bonds, that raise capital while allowing citizens to invest in our transition to net zero. In setting the missions for the Scottish National Investment Bank we have directed the Bank to support a just transition to net zero, using its programme of investments to help rebalance our economy towards sustainable technology and industries of the future.
Develop a position on the role of a carbon border tax to mitigate against the threat of offshoring emissions and jobs	We have set out our approach to carbon pricing as part of our response to the Just Transition Commission. Maintaining the competitiveness of Scotland's businesses and preventing the offshoring of jobs are key components of this approach. Through our role in the jointly-administered UK Emissions Trading Scheme, we will ensure that the Free Allocation system continues to appropriately protect Scottish industries from the risk of carbon leakage. We have also commissioned research to better understand the impacts and potential benefits of carbon border adjustment mechanisms and will publish a position in the year ahead.
We must move beyond GDP as the only measure of national progress. For a just transition to be at the heart of Scotland's response to climate change, the Scottish Government must champion frameworks that prioritise wellbeing	We will further develop the use of our National Performance Framework through the upcoming review of National Outcomes and through consultation on a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill. We will publish the National Strategy for Economic Transformation in autumn this year, with the just transition to net zero and maximising economic, social and environmental wellbeing embedded as key themes. To monitor how we are performing as a wellbeing economy we will also develop and publish a Wellbeing Economy Monitor.

The advice and recommendations of external experts continues to play a key role in how we develop and implement policies to end Scotland's contribution to climate change in a just and fair way. Alongside the advice from the independent Just Transition Commission, we welcome the Climate Emergency Response Group (CERG)'s recent report on immediate actions to tackle the climate emergency. Across the group's report, and this programme, there is a shared priority to focus on delivery, and moving beyond target-setting. We will work constructively with CERG and other external stakeholders as we progress our journey to net zero.

As part of a just transition, we recognise that unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is incompatible with our climate obligations. Countries around the world, including the UK, cannot continue with unlimited recovery of hydrocarbons if the aims of the Paris Agreement are to be met. **We are clear that new oil and gas licences should be assessed against a robust Climate Compatibility Check Point, and existing licences, pre-field development, should also be reassessed.**

At the same time, the oil and gas sector has a critical role to play – not just in the economic and employment benefits it brings, locally and nationally, but in the leading part the industry, infrastructure, workforce and supply chain can play in securing a just transition. To support that, **we will take forward a ten-year £500 million Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray**, supporting and accelerating the transition of the region, and its role as one of Scotland's centres of excellence for the transition to a net zero economy.

### **Global leadership for a global emergency**

In just over two months, the eyes of the world will be on Scotland, as Glasgow hosts COP26. It represents the world's best chance – and possibly one of our last chances – to limit global warming to meet the Paris Agreement target and prevent warming of more than 1.5 degrees in the longer term. Scotland will grasp the opportunity to show leadership to help secure that.

**We will support  
a world-changing**

## **COP26 in Glasgow**

**– moving beyond target  
setting and mobilising  
increased climate action  
from states and regions ahead  
of the summit in November.**



Within its first 100 days, the Scottish Government has published an indicative **Nationally Determined Contribution**, outlining Scotland's contribution to the goals of the Paris Agreement: it is understood that we are the first government that is not a formal party to the Agreement ever to do so. We will now establish Scotland's first statutory Nitrogen Balance Sheet. The First Minister also **appointed 14 leading experts from around the world to her Environmental Council** – co-chaired by the First Minister and Professor Sir Ian Boyd, former Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – to advise the Government on international best practice and keep us at the forefront of tackling the climate emergency and ecological decline. The Council will report to coincide with COP26, and continue to advise Ministers directly over this Parliament.

We will also work with the UK Climate Change Committee to set up a new office in Scotland, increasing its capacity to offer bespoke analysis and advice specific to the Scottish context, to guide us as we progress towards our emissions reduction targets.

To ensure the necessary collective response to our ambitions, the Scottish Government has **launched a new campaign, #LetsDoNetZero, to run throughout this Parliament.** It highlights the benefits a net zero society will bring for our economy, health, and environment, and the transformation required across all sectors of our economy and society. It features a domestic campaign, to provide information and resources to support the steps we can all take to reduce emissions, and an international campaign to demonstrate our global leadership.

In ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, we recognise we have a moral responsibility to support other countries to secure their own positive future. While the poor and the vulnerable have done the least to contribute to the climate emergency, they are being affected first and most severely by it. Starting next year, we will **double the Climate Justice Fund to £6 million per year, providing £24 million across this Parliament.** This funding will scale up projects helping vulnerable communities become more resilient to climate change, empower them to be at the forefront of tackling social injustices, and deliver outcomes in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. By summer 2022, we will also **establish a new Global Renewable Centre,** working with our international development partner countries to exchange knowledge and research in renewable technologies.

### A green transport revolution

There are significant opportunities to be had in our moves towards a green, sustainable and active transport system, with climate action and reducing inequality as core priorities of National Transport Strategy (NTS) 2, helping to deliver inclusive economic prosperity and improving health and wellbeing. Investing in greener and more efficient transport will secure the necessary emissions reduction and enable technological adaptation, boosting business and industry. It is also at the heart of our wider ambitions to create connected communities and deliver 20-minute neighbourhoods.



## A significant programme of investment to secure the decarbonisation of passenger rail services by 2035



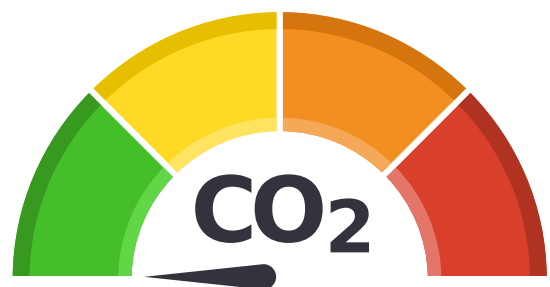
We will take forward an ambitious programme to deliver NTS2 and decarbonise the public transport network. In our first 100 days, the Scottish Government has convened the Bus Decarbonisation Taskforce to co-design a pathway to a greener and more efficient public-service bus fleet and launched the first phase of the Scottish Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund (ScotZEB), worth £50 million. Our public transport system is further supported by over £500 million of **long term investment in bus priority infrastructure**, tackling the impacts of congestion, making journey times shorter and services more reliable, and encouraging people to leave their cars at home.

We will continue a **significant programme of investment to ensure we maintain, improve and decarbonise Scotland's rail network, backed by £5 billion over this Parliament**, and drive forward our commitment to decarbonise passenger rail services by 2035, ensuring the rail fleet is greener and that our communities are more connected. This includes the **East Kilbride Enhancement**, with the electrification of the existing route to Glasgow; **decarbonisation of Barrhead services**, enabling electric trains between Barrhead and Glasgow; and **Borders Line Decarbonisation** and **Fife Circle Decarbonisation** by 2024, with the removal of diesel-powered units.

We are supporting the development of innovative new hydrogen train technology, where electrification or battery technology is not appropriate. We will **showcase our first hydrogen-powered train at Bo'ness Heritage Railway this November**, coinciding with COP26, followed by a demonstration of its live running during March 2022 before working towards **the first hydrogen passenger service by the end of 2025**.

To ensure the public sector plays its part, and to support public sector fleet investment in alternatives to petrol and diesel, **we are also providing a range of low and zero carbon transport initiatives with £287 million investment through to 2025-26 from our Future Transport Fund**. We will ensure that **30% of state-owned ferries are low emission by 2032**. In the coming year we will begin scoping how we might use hybrid and low carbon energy sources in the public sector marine fleet as part of our vessel replacement programme. We will also continue our drive to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030, and build our Electric Vehicle capacity and infrastructure.

## An additional £2 billion across 2021/22 to 2025/26 in largescale, low carbon infrastructure



### Decarbonising Scotland

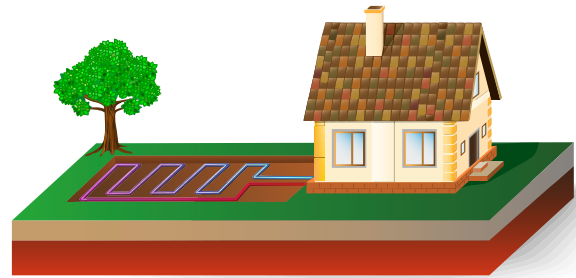
Energy and industry must be at the forefront of our progress towards net zero – securing the necessary emissions reductions, while driving investment and innovation in new technologies across the supply chain and, in turn, creating new, good and green jobs. To help drive that innovation and transition forward, the Scottish Government is **investing £2 billion across 2021-22 to 2025-26 in large-scale, low carbon infrastructure.**

Part of that funding will help to deliver our **commitment to invest at least £1.8 billion over this Parliament to make homes and buildings greener and easier to heat.** This includes a minimum of £465 million to support those least able to pay for home energy improvements, and £400 million for large scale heat decarbonisation projects. We have kick started this investment in 2021-22, with increased funding across a range of programmes, including:

- Increasing the budget for our Home Energy Scotland Loan and Cashback Scheme to £21 million. This enables homeowners to apply for up to £7,500 in cashback if they take out a loan to install green heating systems, such as a heat pump, as well as up to £6,000 towards eligible energy efficiency measures.
- Increasing funding for local authority energy efficiency and green heating schemes to £64 million.
- Providing an additional £18 million for our Warmer Homes Scotland programme targeted at those in fuel poverty, taking the total budget to £50 million this year.
- Launching a second £30 million call for green heating and energy efficiency projects in social housing through the ‘Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund’, and committing to keep the fund open with up to £100 million available over the course of this Parliament.

In order to maximise uptake of our range of home energy and efficiency schemes, we will deliver a public communication programme to raise awareness of the support and advice available, and encourage home upgrades.

**£1.8 billion**  
to make homes and buildings greener and easier to heat.



**£465 million**  
to support those least able to pay for home energy improvements,

**£400 million**  
for heat and energy efficient projects.

Decarbonising heat is essential for reaching net zero, and – done right – tackling inequality, removing poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty. We are committed to **decarbonising the heating of at least 1 million homes, and the equivalent of 50,000 non-domestic buildings, by 2030** – moving them to low or zero emissions systems, and using our Supply Chains Development Programme to maximise the economic opportunities from this transition. To deliver that ambition and maintain progress towards our statutory emission reduction targets, zero emissions heat installations must scale up to provide a total of at least 124,000 systems installed between 2021 and 2026 – we will continue to adapt our delivery programmes to ensure that they contribute towards this ambition. We will also develop and agree through consultation a series of phased targets, starting



in 2024, with the most difficult buildings like hospitals being decarbonised by 2038, and for all publicly-owned buildings to meet zero emission heating requirements, with a backstop of 2038.

This sits alongside ambitious new targets in the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act for supply from heat networks reaching 6TWh by 2030. Over the coming year we will consult on, and lay in Parliament, a Heat Networks Delivery Plan setting out how we will meet these targets.

To harness the potential of decarbonisation at scale, and provide leadership, we will **create a National Public Energy Agency**. We will work to have a virtual agency established within the coming year and a dedicated physical agency by September 2025, with a remit to accelerate transformational change in how we heat and use energy in homes and buildings, aid public understanding and awareness, and coordinate delivery of investment. Fair Work First criteria will be part of the evaluation criteria for any future heat contracts.

As set out in our Hydrogen Policy Statement in 2020, to support our ambitions for energy, decarbonisation and a Just Transition, we want Scotland to become a leading hydrogen nation – producing reliable, competitive, sustainable hydrogen. **In the first year of this parliamentary term, we will publish a five year Hydrogen Action Plan**, setting out the actions we will take to support Scottish supply chain activity and drive the development of a low-cost hydrogen capability to meet an **initial ambition of generating 5GW of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen by 2030**. This will be backed by £100 million investment to capitalise on success and innovation so far, support supply chain activity, and kick-start the accelerated growth of the hydrogen economy in Scotland. We will continue to support SGN's H100 Fife project which will bring renewable hydrogen fuel into 300 homes in Levenmouth in 2022, and offers a possible blueprint for a zero-carbon future for heating and cooking in many of our homes.



Decarbonising our industrial sector in a just and fair way will help the sector to grow and compete in the economy of the future, capturing new export and investment opportunities and sustaining and creating jobs and wealth. During this Parliament, we are investing £60 million to support this. Through the **£26 million Low Carbon Manufacturing Challenge Fund** we are funding a CivTech Challenge this year to help manufacturing businesses decarbonise, while building resilience and strengthening competitive advantage, and we are working with Scottish Enterprise to develop a fund for projects supporting manufacturers move towards low carbon markets. The **£34 million Scottish Industrial Energy Transformation Fund** has already begun to offer grants, spread across sites around the country and a range of industrial sectors, enabling direct action to reduce carbon or save energy.

We will work with the construction sector to implement a **Construction Recovery Plan** which will build a more sustainable, diverse and innovative sector with a highly skilled workforce, encourage the development of local supply chains, improve resilience and promote the use of sustainable materials. The built environment accounts for 40% of carbon emissions, so supporting the construction sector as it develops and uses sustainable materials is essential to achieving our net zero ambition.

The oil and gas sector can, and must, play a positive role in our energy transition. While many of the levers remain reserved to the UK Government, the Scottish Government is clear that any support we provide is conditional on the sector using its knowledge, experience and supply chains to secure a sustainable future. We will undertake a programme of work and analysis to better understand our energy requirements as we transition to net zero and how this aligns with Scotland's climate change targets. Reporting by the end of 2022, this work will supplement a wide range of evidence that will be considered to take an informed policy decision on the contribution of North Sea production to the global climate emergency and to Scotland's economy, security and wellbeing.

We are taking forward an Energy Transition Scotland programme, including the £62 million **Energy Transition Fund (ETF)** which is in its first year of operation and already funding key transition projects – such as the Global Underwater Hub, the Energy Transition Zone, the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub, and the Net Zero Technology Transition Programme. These projects will help ensure Scotland's energy sector plays a leading role in the development and deployment of new, low carbon projects. The **£180 million Emerging Energy Technologies Fund** will also support the development of hydrogen and carbon capture and storage. We are committed to supporting these technologies as part of the energy transition. However, any strategy for their deployment must enable decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero.



Scotland leads the way in new forms of clean energy, with almost 100% of our gross electricity consumption coming from renewable sources in 2020; but we will go further. **By 2030, our aim is to generate 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewable sources, and by 2050 to have decarbonised our energy system almost completely.** We will consult on a revised Energy Strategy, to provide a whole systems view of how the sector will adapt to meet Scotland's emissions reduction targets, with a focus on the necessary roadmap to secure those ambitions. As part of this, we will introduce a strengthened framework to support the growth of the marine renewables and offshore wind sectors, balanced against the potential impacts on marine biodiversity.

Development of renewable energy presents an immense opportunity for Scotland to lead by example – showing how a clean energy future is possible at home, and as a net exporter of renewable energy, attracting further investment and ensuring our progress to net zero is environmentally and economically beneficial. The first round of offshore seabed leasing, ScotWind, closed in July 2021. This could generate up to £860 million in revenue for Scotland, 10GW of wind power, and billions of investment over the next 20 years. Successful bidders will be announced in early 2022 and further regular leasing rounds planned in forthcoming years. We will also **invest some of the lease income in actions which tackle the twin crises of biodiversity and climate change**, creating a legacy for the future.

We will ensure NPF4 actively enables renewable energy, supporting repowering of existing wind farms and expansion of the grid. All renewable energy projects over 50MW will be designated as a national development – balanced against protection of our biodiversity and natural environment. We will ensure no onshore wind developments in National Parks and National Scenic Areas are supported, and the sensitivity of other nationally important designated sites is respected. Subject to fuller assessment, development in all other areas will be supported in principle unless impacts are unacceptable. We recognise that some developments are more controversial than others and **in 2022 will report on any changes required to marine planning and licensing processes**, to ensure that our regulatory approach is efficient, effective and sufficiently resourced – allowing non-controversial consents to be granted quickly, while protecting the value of marine natural capital.

Subject to consultation, **we are committed to securing between 8 and 12GW of installed onshore wind by 2030**, furthering our ambitions for up to 11GW of offshore wind. Within the Scottish Government's first 100 days, we worked with the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council to **publish a Scottish Offshore Wind Strategic Investment Assessment**, setting out how we can secure the greatest utilisation of the domestic supply chain, and attract inward investment to capitalise on our natural resources. We will quickly consider the recommendations of this report, and take forward a coordinated and targeted response. We will also **consult on and publish a new Onshore Wind Policy Statement in 2022**, setting out the vital role that this technology will play in delivering our net zero commitment.

We will also support **Carbon Neutral Islands**, including pilots for islands to run on 100% renewable energy, create circular economies, and explore more sustainable transport options. We will work with at least 3 islands over this Parliament to enable them to become fully carbon neutral by 2040, as forerunners to a net zero Scotland by 2045.

### **Protecting and restoring nature for generations to come**

We know that significant and urgent action is needed to restore the health and vitality of the natural systems that sustain us. Scotland's Environment Strategy sets out our vision to protect and restore Scotland's natural environment and to live within the planet's sustainable limits. Our natural and marine economy will be vital to securing a net zero future – with nature based solutions accounting for around 30% of the emissions reductions needed – but in turn we must ensure it is protected and enhanced.





Within a year of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in October 2021, **we will publish a new biodiversity strategy followed by an underpinning 5 year delivery plan**, which will help guide the way we use and manage land and our approach to protecting habitats and ecosystems. Following this, **we will aim to introduce a Natural Environment Bill in Year 3 of this Parliament**, to:

- Put in place key legislative changes to restore and protect nature, including, but not restricted to, targets for nature restoration that cover land and sea, and an effective, statutory, target-setting monitoring, enforcing and reporting framework.
- Those targets will be based on an overarching goal of preventing any further extinctions of wildlife and halting declines by 2030, and making significant progress in restoring Scotland's natural environment by 2045, and will include outcome targets that accommodate species abundance, distribution and extinction risk, and habitat quality and extent.
- Cover key actions to deliver our targets, including our agreement to protect 30% of Scotland's land and seas by 2030, and highly protect 10%.

We will also ensure a review of environmental justice, and the case for an environmental court, is undertaken during this parliamentary session – commencing by spring 2023.

To support a transformative approach to protecting and restoring Scotland's biodiversity, the Scottish Government will **invest at least £500 million in the natural economy** over the course of this Parliament, including:

- £100 million to increase forestry planting, £30 million to expand Scotland's national forests and land, and £20 million to increase nursery stocks. Within the Government's first 100 days we have met our target of 12,000 hectares of woodland creation in 2020-21, and will **accelerate towards 18,000 hectares a year by 2024-25**, and increase the annual native woodland creation target to 4,000 hectares.
- Increase Forestry Land Scotland's capacity to **grow the public forest** through the acquisition of land, particularly in National and Regional Parks, with increased capital funding.
- Support our commitment to provide £250 million over 10 years to restore 250,000 hectares of degraded peatlands by 2030 – with £22 million **for the restoration of degraded peatlands in 2021-22**. We will help crofting communities play a role through restoration of common grazing land, and we will take forward work to develop and consult on a **ban on the sale of peat related gardening products** as part of our commitment to phase out the use of peat in horticulture.
- Support the **restoration and expansion of Scotland's rainforests**, and establish a National Register of Ancient Woodlands, working with owners and agencies to maintain and protect them.
- Ensure that every Local Authority area will have a Nature Network of new, locally driven projects which aim to improve ecological connectivity across Scotland.
- Multi-year funding for the Nature Restoration Fund, making an important contribution to meeting our targets and restoring Scotland's terrestrial and marine environment.

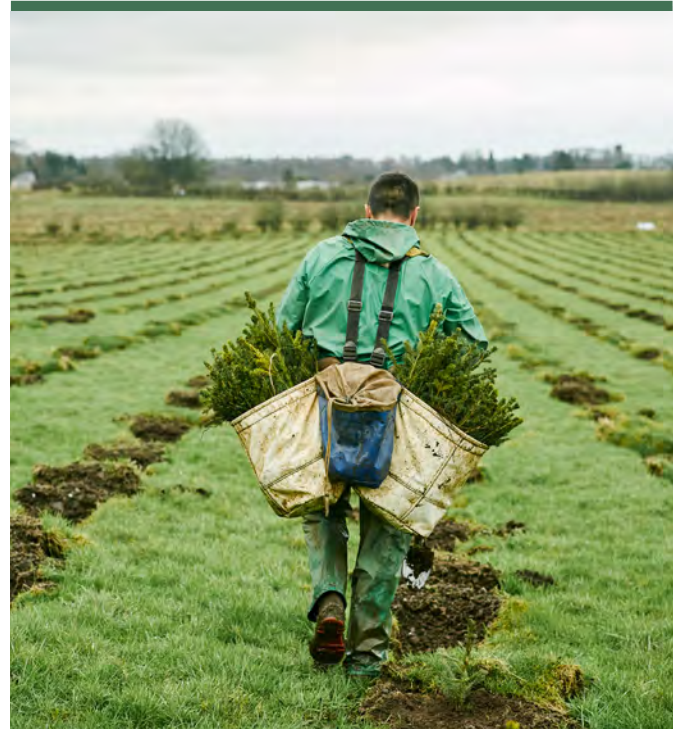
**£500 million**  
to protect and restore  
our natural environment.



We will also **explore a number of mechanisms to ensure we create and restore woodlands**, including increasing easily accessible, sustainably managed woodlands, in urban or peri-urban areas; pilot landscape-scale natural regeneration projects; and, support public sector bodies to increase tree cover on land they own and manage, including exploring if further legislative changes are required to strengthen such duties on public bodies. We will **ensure funding within a post-CAP system is ring-fenced for tree planting, orchard creation, and woodland regeneration**, as well as support for the development of rural businesses linked with forestry.

To further support progressive development, address the climate emergency in the way we use our land, and improve public and community wellbeing, **we will designate at least one new National Park by the end of this Parliament**, provided relevant legal conditions can be met, making funding available to support these ambitions. We will also increase funding to improve visitor facilities, safety measures and access opportunities, including in regional parks.

Alongside our natural economy, a clear opportunity for recovery and renewal in Scotland lies in our marine areas. Six times the size of Scotland's land mass, our rich marine natural capital has the potential to help drive Scotland's green recovery while contributing to often fragile local communities. **In the coming year, we will develop a Blue Economy Strategy and subsequent delivery plan** to support a green recovery and just transition, with sustainable growth of the blue economy underpinned by environmental protection. Scotland has played a pioneering role in marine planning and we will continue to develop a plan-led approach, ensuring a clear and coherent approach to managing the multiple uses of the sea and a robust framework for decision-making.





We will also take forward a step change in marine protection – ensuring that our seas are clean, healthy, safe, productive and diverse, and managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people – which will make Scotland an international leader in this area. We will **deliver fisheries management measures for existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** where these are not already in place, as well as key coastal biodiversity locations outside of these sites, by March 2024 at the latest; **starting this year, add to the existing MPA network by designating a world-leading suite of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)** covering at least 10% of our seas, providing additional environmental protection over and above the existing MPA network by establishing sites which will provide protection from all extractive, destructive or depositional activities while allowing other activities at non-damaging levels; and, **take specific, evidence-based measures to protect the inshore seabed in areas outwith MPAs and HPMAs**, and consult on applying a cap to fishing activity in inshore waters that will limit activity to current levels and set a ceiling from which activities that disrupt the seabed can be reduced in the light of evidence as it becomes available.

### A Circular Economy for a Zero-Waste Nation

While Scotland has already made significant strides in reducing emissions from waste, we will accelerate progress to meet our ambitious waste reduction, recycling and climate change targets. This year, as well as making our first investments from the £70 million Recycling Improvement Fund, we will **work in collaboration with industry, local government and environmental groups to develop a route map to achieving our targets to 2025 and beyond**, and consider the role of incineration and fiscal incentives, such as a waste tax. We will also explore the use of Scotland's devolved tax powers over Landfill Tax to ensure they are consistent with our emissions reduction targets.

To ensure the necessary legislation is in place, we will **bring forward a Circular Economy Bill**, later in this parliamentary session, helping facilitate the development of an economy which reduces demand for raw materials, designs products to last as long as possible and encourages reuse, repair and recycling.

To tackle one of the single greatest causes of waste – our throwaway culture – and ensure a more environmentally friendly and cleaner Scotland, we will introduce a **ban on the single-use plastic items most commonly found littered on European beaches**. Regulations will be introduced before the end of this year to end the supply and manufacture in Scotland of certain single use items, with limited exceptions where absolutely necessary, for example to ensure the new rules do not disadvantage disabled people.

Textile waste makes up just 4% of household waste but 31% of the carbon impacts. In the first half of 2022, we will also **introduce a new £2 million Textile Innovation Fund**, to support businesses working in this sector to address issues associated with textile waste and throwaway culture.

We remain committed to **introducing the UK's first national Deposit Return Scheme**. This will increase the amount and quality of drinks container material being recycled, reduce litter, offer benefits to industry and the public, and reduce emissions equivalent to taking 85,000 cars off our roads. Good progress is being made in getting ready for the scheme, but inevitably the pandemic and EU-Exit has had an impact on the readiness of all partners. Earlier this year, the Scottish Government commissioned an independent review of a feasible 'go-live' date, considering that alongside wider feedback from stakeholders. **We will shortly provide an update to Parliament and businesses.**

All of these efforts will ensure we reduce the amount of waste that makes it to landfill – already at its lowest since records began, with Scotland exceeding the EU target to reduce the quantity of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill. **We will shortly launch a review into the role that incineration plays in our waste hierarchy** to ensure alignment with our emissions reduction targets.



## Chapter 4

**An Economy that works for all of Scotland's People and Places:**  
Putting sustainability, wellbeing and fair work at the heart of  
our economic transformation



**To ensure a green, sustainable and prosperous recovery, within the next 12 months we will:**

- Provide £200 million funding to build the Scottish National Investment Bank's portfolio.
- Provide up to £20 million through the National Transition Training Fund, creating up to 20,000 additional training opportunities.
- Invest up to £70 million in our Young Person's Guarantee which, along with £60 million in 2020-21, will provide at least 24,000 new and enhanced skills and training opportunities for young people this year.
- Provide up to £20 million of bespoke support for those facing long-term unemployment, creating wholly subsidised, fair work job opportunities.
- Consult on the next steps to becoming a Fair Work Nation by 2025, and make it a requirement on public sector grants to pay at least the real Living Wage to employees.
- Introduce a low carbon skills guarantee for workers in sectors like oil and gas – providing advice and support to transfer their skills to low carbon sectors.
- Ensure small businesses can access specialist digital support, backed by £25 million of investment.
- Launch a £20 million Rural Entrepreneur Fund, providing grants of up to £10,000 to support the creation of new businesses, or the relocation of existing businesses.
- Consult on a future agriculture bill, setting out our vision for a new, post-Common Agricultural Policy, support payment system in 2025-26.

The Scottish Government owes a great debt of gratitude to everybody who put the needs of the country ahead of their own financial or business interests over the course of the pandemic. While livelihoods have been on the line for over a year, the sacrifices people and businesses made saved lives – however, the essential protective measures did not come without a cost.

Since March 2020 we committed more than £1.7 billion to building a stronger, more resilient and sustainable economy – over and above £3.7 billion in direct business support. That has been essential to retaining capacity and jobs in the economy – driving forward our national mission to support good, green and new jobs – strengthened by the ability of organisations to switch to home and digital working, where that was possible. While the coronavirus will remain with us for some time, we have been able to take gradual steps to reopen our economy and lives. But a return to just how things were before is not enough in the face of the crisis that has unfolded and the toll it has taken.

Our vision is for a society that thrives economically, socially, and environmentally, with prosperity for all of Scotland's people and places. We will work to secure a green economic recovery that puts wellbeing and fairness at its heart. Across this programme, we are investing in restoring our environment and the green technologies and industries of the future which will in turn help create new, good and green jobs – grounded in fair work and securing a just transition. We will put communities at the heart of that recovery – supporting diverse and inclusive local economies, finance, land, and ownership models.

**A wellbeing economy**

The pandemic has emphasised the interconnected nature of social wellbeing, economic prosperity, and the environment. We will use recovery as an opportunity to actively shape the future of Scotland's economy, setting us on a pathway to a just transition and a wellbeing economy: one that is environmentally sustainable, enables businesses to thrive and innovate, and tackles the social inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

We will look beyond just traditional measures of growth, taking a broader view of what it means to be a successful economy, society and country and establish a set of measures to support our transition to a wellbeing economy.

To show global leadership and monitor how we are performing, **we will set up a group of external advisors to provide international and expert guidance on developing a wellbeing economy, and appoint a Wellbeing Economy Ambassador to promote this work.** We will develop a set of wellbeing indicators for Scotland with a dashboard to monitor and track economic success.

To help achieve this new vision, the Scottish Government has – within its first 100 days – appointed a range of leading experts to a new advisory group which will consider **the development of a 10-year Economic Transformation Strategy**, to be published later this year and supported by the development of Just Transition Plans. This will be an ambitious plan to transform the economy, putting us on the path to meeting our 2030 climate targets, helping restore the natural environment, stimulate innovation, create jobs, improve wellbeing for all, and embed fair work standards across all sectors of the economy. It will take a data and evidence-based approach and learn from international best practice to identify where we should focus our collective efforts. It will ensure that our enterprise organisations work together to deliver support that works for businesses and enables the transformational change we want to see in the next decade. Alongside the strategy, **we will launch a National Challenge Competition on Economic Transformation, backed by £50 million.** This will provide funding to projects with the greatest potential to transform Scotland's economy.

To support this national work, **we will work with regional partners to ensure that every region has a Regional Economic Partnership (REP).** Building on the foundations laid by the City Region and Growth Deals programme, these will encourage strategic collaboration between key economic actors within regions, to make long-term, place based decisions to enable sustainable, inclusive

prosperity. We will support the development of regional economic strategies and recovery plans, and help REPs to take ownership of investment prospectuses, attracting new public and private sector investment. We will lead a review of Regional Policy in Scotland which will report in April 2022.

We will also extend and refresh the way we work in partnership with businesses – large and small, in all parts of Scotland – to develop and deliver policies that underpin economic transformation, based on shared principles and ambitions. We will work particularly closely with small businesses and their representatives, to develop measures which support recovery.

**£50 million  
National  
Challenge  
Competition  
on Economic  
Transformation,  
funding the projects with the  
greatest potential to transform  
Scotland's economy.**





### Delivering a fair, just and sustainable recovery for people

In securing our ambitions for a fair and green recovery, we are faced with the immediate challenges confronting the labour market – and the prospect of further unemployment and hardship as the UK Government removes the furlough scheme – but also an opportunity to equip people to take on the jobs of the future. **We will invest an additional £500 million across this Parliament** – with future plans set through future budgets – to support the new, good and green jobs of the future, including upskilling and reskilling people to access those. We will support those most impacted by the pandemic, and the existing inequalities it has exacerbated, into fair work – for young people, women and lone parents, disabled people, those from Minority Ethnic communities, and lower income households.

## £20 million this year for the National Transition Training Fund,

helping over 20,000 people  
to upskill and reskill.



As part of this overall funding commitment, over the next five years, we will **invest £200 million specifically in adult upskilling and retraining** opportunities. This includes up to £20 million this year through the National Transition Training Fund (NTTF), supporting key sectors to recover from the pandemic and enabling future skills transitions. NTTF is investing in online learning and college and university provision for those at risk of redundancy or with poor employment outcomes to upskill or retrain, supporting businesses to create new employment and training opportunities, and helping workers to take those up. Since being established, it has helped over 6,000 people, and this next phase has the potential to provide up to 20,000 further opportunities.

We are also delivering a package of interventions in the North East, tailored to specific skills and labour market demands. The **North East Economic Recovery and Skills Fund** will provide opportunities for around 3,000 individuals this year, through entrepreneurship and business start-up, training, and employability projects in sectors with existing vacancies or growth opportunities, and support the transition from oil and gas to renewables.

Further support for adult upskilling and reskilling is being provided through the **Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF)** and **Individual Training Accounts (ITAs)**. This year we will evaluate the performance of our investment against outcomes, assessing how we can simplify and strengthen our lifelong learning offer and ensure every adult who needs access to funding to support skills development throughout their lives has it.

Our wider investment and support for businesses will in turn drive demand for good green jobs, and we will align our skills policy to support reskilling and retraining to access those now and in the future, including through the **Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan** published last December.



To ensure that people have the right skills to take advantage of the jobs which can be created through a just transition and green recovery, we **established a Green Jobs Workforce Academy** in the government's first 100 days. This has provided a single solution for those looking to transition into green jobs, showcasing available green jobs, the skills needed to transition to them, and linking people to the required training and funding sources to enable that. As part of implementing the recommendations of the Just Transition Commission **we will deliver a skills guarantee for those in carbon-intensive industries as part of the Green Jobs Workforce Academy**. This will provide advice or a skills assessment in the first instance, followed by the provision of funding for retraining for those with little or no skills transferability to low-carbon sectors – helping workers in sectors like oil and gas to transfer their skills to low carbon sectors and ensuring no-one is left behind through the transition to net zero.

Over the next five years,  
our **£100 million**

## Green Jobs Fund

will help businesses to  
create **green employment and  
opportunities for individuals to  
retrain and upskill in new and  
high-growth areas.**



Our **Green Jobs Fund, providing £100 million capital over the next five years**, will help businesses create green employment through investment, with opportunities for individuals to retrain and upskill in new and high-growth areas. The first tranche of awards, **will be made later this month**, maintaining and creating jobs by providing 1-2-1 financial support to jobs, businesses and organisations providing services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources. This will be followed by further **investment later this year**, to help existing net zero supply chains grow, while encouraging major emerging net zero suppliers to set up in Scotland.

While the pandemic has taken its toll on everyone, the impacts have been felt acutely by young people, who have shouldered an additional burden, seen opportunities taken from them, and are at greatest risk of suffering from the long-term scarring effects of the economic crisis. In response to the immediate impacts of the crisis, we created the Young Person's Guarantee – giving every young person who wants it the opportunity of a job, place in education or training, or formal volunteering.



This year, we are providing **up to £70 million for the Young Person's Guarantee**. In addition to £60 million provided in 2020-21, this combined investment will support at least 24,000 new and enhanced opportunities for young people. This includes 11,000 opportunities for young people through local partnerships; 9,000 additional places in colleges, including short, industry-focused and fast track courses; 2,600 opportunities for vulnerable and care experienced young people; connecting over 1,000 disabled young people to fair work, education and activities designed to ensure a successful transition into adult life and work; up to 500 graduate level placements to support progression into sustainable, graduate level employment; and 110 formal volunteering opportunities providing young people with confidence and experience of the working environment.

We have also delivered our 100 days commitment to complete the roll out of Developing the Young Workforce coordinators across all mainstream secondary schools. To measure how well we are meeting the Young Person's Guarantee we have published a set of [Key Performance Indicators](#) (KPIs), including a specific equality KPI, and are developing a broader evaluation plan.

As we look ahead, we will work with partners to deliver transformative interventions for young people, taking forward the actions set out in the **Young Person's Guarantee Activity Plan and Equality Action Plan**. That includes a commitment to support new green and nature based skills activity, particularly on the islands, and maximising apprenticeship starts this year, seeking to work back up to 30,000 starts in future years.

## Up to £70 million this year for the Young Person's Guarantee.

**In addition to £60 million provided in 2020/21, this combined investment will support at least 24,000 new and enhanced opportunities for young people.**



In delivering a fair and inclusive recovery, the needs of the most disadvantaged in our communities will intensify, and people who have not traditionally required support may find themselves out of work. As identified in our Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, we know that certain groups are at greatest risk of poverty: women, young people, Minority Ethnic groups, lone parents, disabled people and low earners. While the full impact of the crisis will become clearer when the UK Government winds down the Job Retention Scheme, these groups are the most likely to face disproportionately negative employment outcomes. To secure a truly fair recovery, we will prioritise focused activity to drive up good, secure and well-paid employment opportunities for those at the greatest risk of poverty.

This year, we are **providing over £8.65 million for the Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF), and have committed to invest at least a further £15 million across 2022-24.** This helps low income families identified as being most at risk of experiencing poverty to increase their earnings, by gaining and progressing in fair work, providing intensive, person-centred key worker employability support. As part of this, we are **taking forward work now to explore the creation of both a bespoke Lone Parent offer, and a “guarantee approach”** for parents to access employability services that provide holistic support. We are engaging on these with stakeholders and local authorities, as well as considering it within wider work around universal basic services and wraparound support.

PESF also links individuals with Fair Start Scotland, which we have extended for a further two years, to 2023. This year, **we are providing £27 million for Fair Start Scotland,** providing tailored person-centred support for unemployed disabled people and those with health conditions or other barriers to moving into fair and sustained work. This complements our ongoing No One Left Behind activity to deliver a person-centred, joined up employability system in Scotland in partnership with local government, private and third sector partners. This approach also includes a greater focus on ‘wraparound’ support, ensuring that links are created between employment and the wider support families may need, including housing, childcare, and transport.

We have also committed **£20 million to develop the No One Left Behind approach and provide an offer of support to those facing long-term unemployment in 2021-22.** This will be delivered through No One Left Behind partnerships, creating wholly subsidised, fair work job opportunities in sectors where there are skills shortages, such as Health and Social Care, and new and emerging sectors, including green jobs.

Alongside this, we will prioritise action to address the barriers in the labour market that prevent people from all communities from realising their potential and accessing employment. We will work to reduce the employment gap between disabled people and the rest of the working age population by at

least half by 2038. We will take forward a range of initiatives, including establishing a **scheme to remove the barriers many disabled people face in attaining leadership positions,** building on the success of the Minority Ethnic Leadership and Development Programme. And we will **develop an ethnicity pay gap strategy by the spring of 2022** as part of our continuing work to improve labour market outcomes for Minority Ethnic workers in Scotland.

Recognising the continued barriers that women face, particularly those who have taken career breaks – especially where those are related to pregnancy and caring – we will tackle the ‘motherhood penalty’, a key driver of the gender pay gap. We will **support 2,000 women transition back to work following a career gap, backed by up to £2 million this year.** We will also **establish a Women’s Business Centre, backed by £50 million** across this Parliament, supporting the provision of accessible, relevant advice and support to women-led businesses. As part of this funding, we will **support 100 women per year to develop pioneering business ideas.**

**Backed by £50 million,  
we will establish a**

## **Women’s Business Centre**

**offering advice and support  
to women at all stages of  
their business journey.**



We will also **secure improved opportunities for veterans**, ensuring that those who have risked their lives in the service of the nation can access good jobs once their time in the military is over. We will launch a public awareness campaign next year, targeting employers and the business community to help increase employment opportunities for veterans. We will lead by example, creating more job opportunities within the Scottish Government set aside specifically for veterans. We'll also increase the Scottish Veterans Fund to £500,000 a year, providing financial backing for more projects that support veterans and their families, with a focus on support for early service leavers.

To ensure all these new opportunities are good opportunities, the Scottish Government will continue to use the full powers at our disposal to drive fair work practices across the labour market: **applying Fair Work First criteria to public sector funding and contracts** to leverage employers' commitment to Fair Work principles. Within our first 100 days, we have made opposition to "fire and rehire" practice, and support for flexible and family friendly working practice, criteria in our Fair Work First Programme, and given our support to a National Living Hours Accreditation Scheme. Over the coming months, **we will consult on our ambition to be a fair work nation by 2025** – including a **requirement for fair work conditions to be applied to the scoring criteria for all public sector grants**, where it is proportionate and relevant to do so. An agreed vision, action plan and milestones for delivery and monitoring will be produced by early 2022. We will also introduce a **requirement on organisations in receipt of public sector grants to pay at least the real Living Wage to all employees** and provide appropriate channels for effective workers' voice, such as trade union recognition, subject to limits on devolved competence.

## Four-day working week

**We will establish a £10m fund – starting with £2 million this year – to support pilots of a four-day working week.**



Many employers do provide Fair Work for their workers, but too many people have experienced the pressures, difficulties, and fears of unfair working practices, particularly at a time of such significant upheaval and uncertainty. But we have also seen the possibilities and positives of adopting alternative working practices and getting a better balance between work and personal lives. We will **establish a £10m pilot fund to support companies explore the benefits of a 4-day working week**. We will also **develop plans for a Centre for Workplace Transformation**, to put Scotland at the forefront of developing progressive workplaces, and establish a short-life **Business Purpose Commission for Scotland** to promote more purposeful businesses and better corporate governance.



While we have made good progress in delivering our ambitions for fair and inclusive work, there is more that can be done – but many of the most significant levers rest with the UK Government. EU Exit adds further instability, and the risk of a race to the bottom and erosion of standards. We will **hold a summit with political parties and stakeholders to identify the steps needed to build the case for the devolution of employment powers**, and will seek the support of the Scottish Parliament to press the UK Government to devolve them. In advance of devolution, we will press the UK Government to apply appropriate scoring conditions to public sector grants in Scotland under reserved powers

### Investing in Scotland's economy to deliver a just transition

A just transition to net zero requires a robust, diversified economy where businesses can make investments with confidence – domestically and globally – and will ensure Scotland is a world-leader, showcasing our strengths including in green and renewable technologies. That isn't just a moral obligation in meeting our ambitious targets to end Scotland's contribution to climate change, it is an economic opportunity to be grasped: benefiting businesses by leveraging public and private sector finance to create new markets and business opportunities, and benefiting people by protecting existing jobs, and creating new skills, training and employment opportunities.

To deliver on that, we will take forward a transformational programme of infrastructure investment, providing businesses with the confidence they need to play their part in a just transition. We will finance our recovery with a robust pipeline of projects and programmes to stimulate supply chains and a green recovery, and create jobs, through our Infrastructure Investment Plan. This Plan sets out over £26 billion of key investments and will deliver our **National Infrastructure Mission to increase annual investment in infrastructure by £1.6 billion by 2025-26** – when compared to 2019-20 – a total investment value of over £33 billion in the next five years.

This includes **£2 billion of capital funding** dedicated to delivering new low carbon infrastructure as part of a just transition to net zero. We will take action to maximise the impact of public funding to boost an inclusive and green economic recovery, ensuring that infrastructure investment is a priority of the **Supply Chains Development Programme** and embedding Fair Work First, climate and local economic considerations in more contracts and grants.

To complement the current infrastructure planning and delivery landscape, and put the public good at the heart of management and development of public assets, **we will start work to create a National Infrastructure Company**. We will develop a programme of work to identify areas in which this would bring the most value to Scotland in delivering our infrastructure and a wider set of performance outcomes. Following consideration of this, we will decide on the most appropriate format and set of functions for the National Infrastructure Company.





This investment is further enhanced by creation of the **Scottish National Investment Bank** – the UK's first mission-led development investment bank, and with the potential to transform Scotland's economy. We are committed to providing it with £1 billion capital funding across this Parliament, with £200 million in 2021-22, which will all go towards building its portfolio. Although the Bank is still in its first full year of operation, its early investments have shown how it will deliver against its missions: supporting Scotland's transition to net zero; building communities and promoting equality; and harnessing innovation.

Our **second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)** – a Scotland-wide review of the strategic transport network across all transport modes – will set the direction of transport investment in Scotland for the next 20 years. STPR2 final draft reports are planned to be published before the end of 2021, providing stakeholders and the public with the opportunity to comment.

While these efforts will help deliver our net zero and just transition ambitions, we know that government and the public sector cannot achieve that alone. It is estimated that globally at least \$6 trillion of new or reallocated infrastructure investment a year is needed up to 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement, and wider Sustainable Development Goals. While this is a major challenge, it also presents significant economic opportunity, as demand for green finance is expected to grow substantially. Building on our position as an established global financial centre, a new industry-led taskforce will draw up Scotland's action plan to capitalise on the opportunities of financing the global shift to net zero, setting out the actions we will take **to promote and establish Scotland as a world-leading centre for green and ethical finance**, and leverage the potential of private finance.

We will introduce a **Moveable Transactions Bill**, making various types of commercial transactions more efficient, less expensive and less complicated than at present, leading to easier access to finance for businesses in Scotland, supporting our competitiveness, and aiding our economic recovery.

Scotland's recently launched **Global Capital Investment Plan** provides a vision and framework for attracting and retaining capital investment flows into priority areas of our economy, aligned to our commitment to a just transition to net zero and in support of a green recovery. We will continue to work with partners to facilitate an increase in the amount of private capital in the economy by **developing and promoting available investment opportunities to global capital markets**. This includes adding to our Green Investment Portfolio which will bring investment proposals worth £3 billion to the market by 2022, covering sectors from environmentally sustainable commercial real estate to low emission transportation and green energy. As part of implementing the Global Capital Investment Plan, we will **take forward a Green Market Solutions Programme**, focused on applying our suite of available incentives to help stimulate private sector investment into major projects and new technologies, and establishing market-creating financial and pricing solutions to overcome barriers to private investment. The programme aims to encourage first mover investors in key areas like natural capital, heating and hydrogen.

We will **take forward our Green Growth Accelerator** – an outcome based funding model incentivising local to deliver a set of agreed economic, environmental and social outcomes, delivered through investment in low carbon infrastructure. We will announce the first “pathfinder projects” ahead of COP26, as the first step to unlocking up to £200 million of public sector investment to drive our transition to net zero. And, we will explore **the creation of a new green industrial catalyst fund** that will support investment and resilience in the green industrial sector.

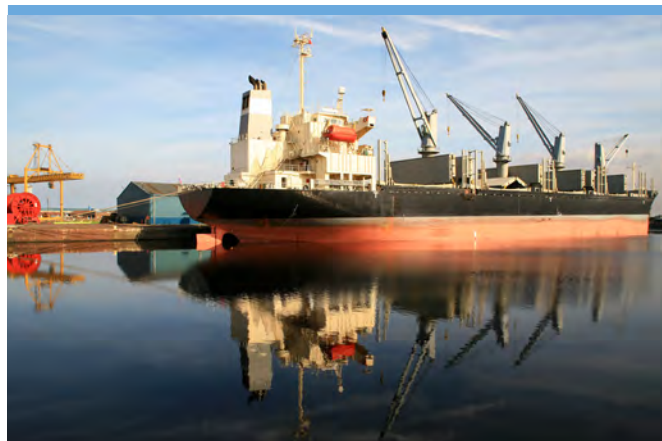
As part of our drive to secure wider investment in a green recovery, the Scottish Government remains committed to **establishing green ports in Scotland** – helping us to create fair work opportunities and deliver a just transition to net-zero. We have sought to work with the UK Government in partnership to develop green ports, a model tailored for the Scottish context. We will continue work to develop a joint model, but if that is not possible then we will seek to implement all devolved elements we can to ensure green ports can deliver on their potential.

### Enhancing Scotland's economy and international competitiveness

Our approach to international trade and investment is as much about how we trade as it is about what we trade. Implementing our **Vision for Trade** will ensure our decisions related to trade are aligned with our values and that trade supports the economic recovery. This year we will publish our first annual implementation report.

We will continue to drive forward our ambition set out in **A Trading Nation** to increase international exports to 25% of GDP by 2030 – increasing GDP by approximately £3.5 billion and helping support 17,500 jobs. In 2021-22 we will publish Sector Export Plans for the Scottish Technology, Renewables and Life Sciences sectors, setting bold ambitions for long term growth of exports. We will undertake a detailed study of the opportunities for Scottish businesses in the US market, highlight Scotland's key strengths at Dubai Expo, continue to expand our network of Trade Envoys to ten over the course of the year, and grow our network of GlobalScots to reach 1500 members by 2023.

Aligned to our Vision for Trade, our **Inward Investment Plan** is focused on attracting sustainable values-led investment that matches our ambitions for Scotland: helping achieve a Net Zero, Fair Work, and Wellbeing Economy. It targets 100,000 jobs from inward investment over the next decade, increasing Scottish GDP by £4.2 billion, and boosting Scottish exports by £2.1 billion. This year we will develop a programme of strategic Ministerial engagement with our leading inward investors to promote and encourage further investment in Scotland, as well as strengthening our existing relationships. With Scottish Development International and regional partners we will develop Regional Inward Investment Propositions in support of our national offer to inward investors, demonstrating Scotland's strengths and ensuring the benefits of inward investment are felt across the whole of the country.



### A digitally inclusive, connected Scotland

Over the past 18 months, the coronavirus crisis has changed our way of life fundamentally. Many of us have worked successfully from home and we have now come to rely on home shopping, online education and new and creative ways of using digital technology to keep in touch with family and friends. But it has also demonstrated the problems that come from digital exclusion. It has reminded us all that whilst technology can transform lives for the better, it is essential we ensure no one is left behind. We will ensure everyone – regardless of where they live – has an acceptable level of connectivity so they can be a part of the digital world. That is particularly acute in our rural communities, and our **Reaching 100% (R100) contracts are continuing to deliver broadband across Scotland**, backed by over £579 million in investment, and are expected to be complete in the central and south of Scotland areas by 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively, and in the north by 2026-27.

As part of R100, **16 subsea fibre cables to 15 of Scotland's islands will begin to be laid in spring 2022, and completed by the end of 2022** – bringing superfast broadband to some of our most remote communities. We are working closely with the UK Government to ensure that Scotland receives its fair share of 'Project Gigabit' funding and to ensure early investment in Scotland's islands, with a commitment to support the creation of gigabit islands which will enable 5G services and connectivity from mobile providers.

We remain committed to **providing support to ensure that everyone can access superfast broadband services by the end of 2021** – delivered through the R100 contracts, R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme and increased commercial coverage. Properties that are not expected to receive a connection through either the R100 contracts or commercial investment will be eligible for a voucher offering a subsidy worth up to £5,000 per property. Properties where superfast broadband roll-out is planned, but unlikely to be delivered until after 31 December 2021, are eligible for an interim voucher, offering up to £400 to deliver a connection. And those in the most difficult-to-reach locations can receive an additional subsidy of £250.

We believe digital connectivity is an essential utility and will ensure Scotland's interests are represented in UK Government proposals to utilise building regulations from 2022 to **require developers to deploy and optimise digital connectivity in all new housing developments**. To create the conditions to stimulate further commercial investment in full fibre, we will also **extend the current 10-year 100% non-domestic rates relief on new fibre in Scotland by a further five years**.

Complementing our programme of broadband roll out, we are working to bring 4G connectivity to some of Scotland's longest standing mobile notspots through our **Scottish 4G Infill programme**, ensuring remote, rural and island communities can enjoy its benefits. We expect that up to 35 masts will have been activated for 4G by September 2022, and when the programme ends in March 2023, up to 55 remote, rural and island areas will have 4G infrastructure for the first time.

While these efforts will ensure that more households have the potential to get online, we know that too many people still do not have the means to do so. We are taking ambitious action to tackle the digital divide through our **Connecting Scotland programme**. By the end of this Parliament, we will ensure Connecting Scotland has supported up to 300,000 households get online, backed by

£200 million of investment, through the provision of devices, data and digital skills. In our first 100 days we have reached the milestone of supporting 40,000 households since the programme began, and are on our way to helping 60,000 households get online by the end of this year. During autumn 2021 we will continue delivery to people seeking employability support and those isolated by the pandemic. We will also work to develop the future of the programme, with lone parents as a key target group.

### A world leading digital economy

We have seen the immense power of digital technologies in the response of businesses to the pandemic – as they adapted and innovated at unprecedented pace and scale. Whilst great progress has been made, there remains significant potential for greater adoption of digital technologies which would improve competitiveness, productivity and resilience for businesses and drive forward Scotland's economic recovery and emissions reduction. Scotland has the potential to be a world-leading tech nation, and we have the blueprint to achieve it through **Mark Logan's review of the Scottish tech ecosystem**.

Over the next year we will action key recommendations from the review, backed by an initial £7 million funding for the programme. This includes an initial £4 million this year – increasing to £30 million – to support the next generation of Scottish start-ups through a national network of 'Tech Scalars'. These will open by 2022, providing world-class training and mentoring for tech entrepreneurs, and opportunities to network and share ideas. As part of their work, all training and education offered will be accessible virtually, ensuring access for businesses in rural areas.

Scotland has a number of strengths within the tech sector and we will work with our start-ups and scale-ups to develop and provide opportunities for vibrant ecosystems of companies, research, and talent as we build Scotland's international position within these global markets.

To increase Scotland's capability in producing a steady stream of profitable, scaled tech businesses, elevating our education and skills system is fundamental. This year we will launch the **Scottish Teachers Advancing Computing Science (STACS)**, an organisation run for and by Computing Science teachers to share best practice in Computing Science across all schools. We're also convening the most senior leaders from our education and skills agencies to bring forward change in Computing Science in schools. To provide greater support for innovative new businesses, this autumn we will open our £1 million Ecosystem Fund, to make strategic investments in organisations and activities that create the best possible environment for Scottish startups to succeed.

## £100 million in digital support programmes

to harness the digital ambitions of our SMEs and strengthen our digital economy. This year, the **£25 million DigitalBoost programme** opened in our first 100 days.



Building on our ambition for the digital economy, we will scale up our support for digital adoption, **investing £100 million in digital support programmes over this Parliament**, to harness the digital ambitions of our SMEs and strengthen our digital economy. This includes the £25 million DigitalBoost programme – reopened in the government's first 100 days – providing grants and support to help SMEs get access to the right digital skills and equipment to improve their digital capability and capacity.

Through the Scotland 5G Centre, we are also continuing **delivery of a network of 5G Innovation Hubs across Scotland** that will provide entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises with the skills they need to understand how 5G can benefit their business, collectively providing targeted support to diverse sectors across Scotland. Three hubs – Forth Valley, Dumfries, and Dundee – have already opened virtually, with physical openings to follow in autumn 2021, and a further four hubs are expected to open by May 2022.

We are also working to **establish a green datacentre cluster management organisation** that positions Scotland at the forefront for new investment opportunities and builds our profile as a competitive location for sustainable datacentres, leveraging our abundant natural resources in renewable energy.

While the experience of the pandemic has shown the power of technology to enable businesses to prosper, we also know there is a significant risk that it can create an uneven playing field. While a complex undertaking – with significant legislative implications, since many of the levers rest with the UK Government – we will **explore the introduction of a new national digital sales tax**, levelling the tax field between high street and online retailers.

Alongside the private sector, we will ensure the public sector helps to mobilise the tech and innovation revolution, delivering benefits both for organisations and the people who rely on their services through the CivTech programme. This works with innovative businesses to solve challenges faced by the public sector as quickly and effectively as possible. **We will provide £13.5 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to scale CivTech's operations, and provide a further £46 million to fund the delivery of innovative products and services across the public sector.** This funding will take the form of contracts for companies engaging with CivTech, helping drive the growth of the companies, create up to 700 new high-value jobs, attract investment, and provide capacity to support delivery against key strategic priorities in the public sector. Through the work of the CivTech Alliance, we will continue to develop opportunities for trade to support innovative exportable technologies, attract foreign direct investment, and further our relations with international NGOs and governments through developing communities of practice around shared issues, such as climate change.

Alongside our enterprise agencies and the SNIB, we will support businesses at the forefront of developing the technologies of tomorrow, **increasing our funding for research and development to £100 million over this Parliament.** This will enable key sectors for the Scottish economy that rely on research and development to create new products and concepts, and then to move through the steps required to develop commercially viable solutions.

One sector which offers significant potential is the space sector. **We will support Scotland to become a leading European space nation** by working with industry to deliver a full end to end solution for satellite design, manufacture and testing, launch and data exploitation, targeting a £4 billion share of the global space market. One step will be the development of a joint Scottish Government, industry and academia strategy for sector growth, to be launched in October 2021, and delivery of a dedicated launch capability by summer 2023, targeting a £4 billion share of the global space market, with 20,000 jobs in the sector by 2030.

Innovation, in all its forms, will be critical to future success. Working with the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board and other stakeholders **we will develop a new innovation strategy** and ensure that the support we provide is easy to access and focused on areas of greatest opportunity. We will also ensure that we provide accessible, streamlined support and opportunities for entrepreneurs and start-ups in all sectors as we look for an innovation-led recovery.

Scotland has a thriving life sciences sector which played an innovative role in our response to the pandemic. In order to support future growth the Scottish Health and Industry Partnership is working to achieve the dual ambitions of meeting health and wellbeing priorities and boosting economic prosperity. This will focus on the development of a roadmap to investment for Life Sciences, the creation of economic opportunities through the Supply Chain development programme, and future opportunities in the use of artificial intelligence in health and social care. To support the new opportunities in artificial intelligence we will provide £20 million to **develop an AI Hub for Life Science, NHS and Social Care** to create AI Innovation and commercialisation capability in Scotland linked to the national AI Strategy and Tech Scalars Programme.



### Putting local business and communities at the heart of our economic recovery

The economic crisis has taken a significant toll on all businesses, but those impacts have been felt most acutely in certain areas. Many small businesses had no alternative but to shutter for months, with the prospect that their business model may never be the same again, and our high streets felt the squeeze as people turned to online shopping for convenience and safety. And the effects of that are not isolated to local businesses, as they are the lifeblood of our local economies. We will take action to ensure we protect those businesses where we can, and put more power and opportunity in the hands of our communities to ensure they can forge their own path to recovery.

Since the start of the pandemic, businesses have directly had £3.7 billion in support, including £2.6 billion in grants and £965 million in COVID-19 non-domestic rates (NDR) reliefs. To ensure some stability for those businesses hit hardest, we **extended 100% NDR relief for properties in the retail, leisure, aviation and hospitality sectors for all of 2021-22**. Alongside other measures such as a reduction to the poundage, this ensures Scotland offers the most generous NDR regime in the UK and will help those businesses get back on their feet. We have also ensured that our support goes further than that provided in the rest of the UK: in our first 100 days, the Scottish Government delivered a second payment of £1,500 for taxi and private hire drivers, and up to £10,000 for taxi operator firms.

To support new businesses and their resilience, we will **maintain the Business Growth Accelerator (BGA) and Fresh Start Reliefs for the duration of this Parliament**. BGA provides 100% relief up to 12 months after first occupation of new-builds, and no increases in rates for 12 months after a property improvement; Fresh Start Relief provides 100% relief for 12 months for businesses occupying certain long-term empty properties. This ensures we incentivise non-domestic property investment and continue to encourage businesses to reoccupy long-term empty properties.

To support the small businesses who will be vital to the recovery of our towns and high streets, we will **maintain the Small Business Bonus Scheme for the lifetime of the Parliament** – ensuring that 100,000 business properties pay no rates and that the majority of ratepayers continue to pay a lower poundage than elsewhere in the UK. We will shortly introduce legislation to prevent the inappropriate use of material change of circumstances provisions in the NDR legislation in relation to COVID-19, or COVID-19 restrictions. To level the playing field for all non-domestic properties, we will help local authorities tackle a known avoidance tactic on empty non-domestic properties. This will deliver greater fiscal empowerment for councils in advance of the devolution of empty property relief in April 2023, supported further by the introduction of a fiscal framework for local government.



Local businesses have been challenged in competing with larger, out of town and online businesses – exacerbated during the pandemic with the closure of smaller physical business spaces. Local economies have suffered as a result, with the worst effects often in areas with pre-existing inequality. To counteract that, we **launched a refreshed Scotland Loves Local marketing campaign**, to encourage people to ‘think and choose local’, and a **Scotland Loves Local loyalty card** to encourage and reward people for supporting local businesses. The card is free for businesses to use, and can be pre-loaded with funds for rewards and gifts, or for use for transport, culture and leisure, and retail and hospitality. We have also launched a **£10 million multi-year Scotland Loves Local Fund** to support local people, businesses and community partnerships. £2 million is being made available this year, supporting up to 100 organisations to bring new creative projects and activity to towns and neighbourhoods – helping build local wealth and increase footfall and activity, while supporting local enterprise partnerships.

We will also publish a Retail Strategy to help the sector in Scotland adapt, innovate and thrive and become an exemplar in sustainable and inclusive prosperity – supporting a robust, local supply chain and offering people and communities the goods and services that they want.

We will also **support businesses with alternative ownership models**, including cooperatives and social enterprises, with a view to increasing their representation in the Scottish economy, and increase the number of employee owned businesses in Scotland to 500 by 2030.

Alongside business, we want more people and local communities in Scotland to have a bigger stake in our economy, share ownership and build resilience to create a fairer and more secure economic future. Building on the development of the approach across Scotland, we will take forward a **Community Wealth Building Bill** in this Parliament, to enable more local communities and people to own, have a stake in, access and benefit from the wealth our economy generates. The Bill will cement and augment the role local authorities and other public sector anchor organisations, such as Health Boards, play in supporting local economic development and advancing a wellbeing economy, legislating for them to consider their economic footprint within a wider place system.

Alongside this, we will take forward a range of legislative reforms which ensure we give local communities and organisations greater powers over their own future. We will **review the Community Empowerment Act**, to consider how local communities can have more of a say over how local public assets are used – whether that is taking on the ownership or management of land or buildings, delivery of services to members of their community, or more say in how services are delivered, assets are used and resources are allocated.

We will bring forward a **Local Democracy Bill**, devolving more decisions and resources to more local spheres of democratic governance, following the conclusion of the Local Governance Review which will continue the joint working between Scottish Government, COSLA and communities. Over this Parliament, we will also provide accessible and inclusive financial support to allow more communities to purchase a share in their local sports club and/or facilities, by **creating a Fan Bank**.

While new developments in our local communities will be of particular importance in securing an inclusive and national recovery, we recognise that they can also put pressure on existing infrastructure. In such instances, it is right that developers make a fair and proportionate contribution to new or upgraded facilities. We will deliver an effective, fair mechanism for capturing, for public benefit, a share of the increase in land value that occurs when development is supported through the planning system. This will be with a view to new legislation in 2023-24, taking into account powers for an **infrastructure levy** introduced in the Planning Scotland Act 2019.

To put planning at the heart of delivering green, inclusive and long-term sustainable development, we will launch a consultative draft of Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) this autumn, taking an ambitious approach to prioritising emissions reduction, integrating land use and transport, focusing on place based outcomes, supporting green economic recovery which promotes nature based solutions, and supporting the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods. We will involve **the relevant Economic Development body in assessing potential economic benefits** of proposals for development identified in NPF4 as being of national or regional significance.

We will also begin delivering our 5 year, £35 million programme to digitally transform Scotland's planning system. This year, to support community involvement in shaping local areas, we will embark on a pilot roll out of a Placebuilder digital engagement tool. We will also begin to comprehensively improve the online process of applying for planning permission, to speed up the process and provide greater clarity for applicants.

To help support the delivery of much-needed infrastructure, development and regeneration projects in the public interest, we will **reform and modernise the compulsory purchase system in Scotland, making it clearer, fairer and faster for all parties**. Initial stakeholder engagement will commence in the coming year, ahead of public consultation and a Bill later in the parliamentary term.



We have supported the recommendations of the Tourism Recovery Taskforce, providing a £25 million Tourism Recovery Fund supporting a range of projects this year, and will consider the best approach to Phase 2 recovery work, covering the following 2 years. The tourism sector, along with the hospitality sector, is globally recognised as having been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Effective recovery will be vital in ensuring the sector can be a force for good in the local and national economy – through fair work, sustainable jobs, and value for communities - and place Scotland as a world leader in responsible tourism.

In our first 100 days, the Scottish Government has made funding available to the sector, providing £1.4 million for family holiday vouchers for low income families, unpaid carers and disadvantaged young people, offering subsidised breaks in Scotland, and £4 million for a new days out scheme to support all visitors to take advantage of our many attractions, in the off-season, providing benefit to both the attraction and the visitor.

Other key elements of the £25 million package include £8 million to support international demand building, to put Scotland back in the global stage, £3 million to support sector and destination organisations to develop their offers and further enhance the things that make a visit to Scotland, whether from home or abroad, so special, and investment in tourism and hospitality talent and skills development.

We will also maintain our investment of **over £6 million annually in the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund**, helping tourist attractions and their communities deal with the impact of increased visitor numbers on the local infrastructure. In our first 100 days, we have set up a taskforce to **develop an Agritourism Growth Strategy Group**, supporting farmers to **diversify their land use**, including to support campsites and other tourism initiatives, and published a **refreshed food tourism action plan**. We have also provided £2.75 million help rural areas welcome back visitors, including more seasonal rangers, temporary toilets, car parking and campervan facilities.

In the coming year,  
we will launch a **£20 million**  
**Rural**  
**Entrepreneur**  
**Fund**  
to establish  
**2,000 new**  
**businesses**  
helping to build up our  
rural economies



In rural and island communities, to aid recovery and assist businesses to set up, **in the coming financial year we will launch a £20 million Rural Entrepreneur Fund**. This will work to establish 2,000 new businesses by providing grants of up to £10,000 to support the creation of new businesses or the relocation of existing business, helping to build up our rural economies, providing local skilled employment, and reversing depopulation.

We will **invest £30 million over the next five years through the Islands Programme, to support delivery of the National Islands Plan** and a fair, integrated, green and inclusive recovery. This includes the £2 million Island Communities Fund, offering grants of up to £150,000 to support employment and community resilience and help enhance activities linked to commitments within the National Islands Plan. We will also establish an **Islands Infrastructure Fund**, to identify and deliver on critical infrastructure projects across the islands, which will have a transformative effect on the community as a whole. A £1.3 million Healthy Islands Fund will also be launched to help improve mental wellbeing post pandemic and to enable participation in healthy lifestyles and physical activities across our islands.

To address population decline among young people, and an ageing population in many island communities, we began consultation on the **Islands Bond** in August this year. By Summer 2022 we will introduce a new £5 million Islands Bond fund, providing up to £50,000 each for up to 100 households by 2026, by providing financial support for island residents to remain in their community, or to encourage people to move there.



Our new **Young Islanders Network** will provide opportunities for young people in Scotland's island communities to share their experiences, make their voices heard, shape decision-making about issues that impact their lives and ensure that the National Islands Plan fully considers their interests and priorities.

We will legislate within this Parliament to tackle the concentration of land ownership, which can have detrimental effects for rural communities in particular. Subject to devolved competence constraints, we will aim to bring forward a **Land Reform Bill to tackle the scale and concentration of land ownership across rural and urban Scotland**, including provision for a public interest test to apply to transfers of particularly large scale landholdings, with a presumption in favour of community buy-out when the test applies. We will **double the Scottish Land Fund** from £10 million to £20 million per year by 2026 to provide support for community ownership projects in urban and rural areas, responding to the increasing popularity of the fund, which was over-subscribed last year for the first time since 2003.

We believe the way land is used and managed can help address the twin environmental and climate crises, and support a just transition – but it must change to do so. We have launched a set of **Regional Land Use Partnership** pilots this year – to test and develop new approaches to governance and decision making, and adopt a natural capital approach to land use change. Should these pilots prove successful, we will develop plans for a second phase from 2023.



In supporting our rural and island economies, we will ensure young people have more opportunities. **We will deliver islands-focused activity through the Young Person's Guarantee.** We have also **established a commission to undertake a review of land-based education**, tasked with coming up with recommendations by 2022-23 to attract more people, specifically women and young people, into land-based sectors, and to improve the learning 'pipeline' – from early years, to university and college.



### A strong and sustainable future for Scottish farming, fishing and aquaculture

The Scottish Government has been clear that the consequences of the UK's exit from the EU would be damaging at any time, but in the middle of the current crisis it was unforgivable. That is especially true for some of our most critical sectors, and those likely to be hit hardest, in agriculture and seafood. Already we have seen how some sectors have experienced contraction, with export values and volumes drastically falling, and reduced turnover.

We remain wholly committed to maintaining a close relationship and strong links with the EU, and will seek to maintain or exceed EU environmental standards. As the EU develops a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and Scotland develops a new agriculture policy, we will **ensure our future policy stays broadly in line with the objectives of the new CAP as far as possible**, to allow us to rejoin the EU at a future point with minimal disruption. We will also seek to broadly align our pesticide regime with the EU, and we will shortly introduce a new fertilisers regulatory regime based on EU regulations.

As we develop our policy currently outside of the EU, we continue to support the rural economy through stability and simplicity. In our first 100 days, the Scottish Government has established an Agriculture Reform Implementation Oversight Board to develop new proposals for sustainable farming support. The Board places farmers and crofters at the heart of a future support framework and will seek to help Scottish agriculture to become more economically and environmentally sustainable.

The board will build on the recommendations of the Farmer-led Groups and also take forward commitments in the Climate Change Plan update, with **legislation planned for 2023 to underpin**: a new support framework that will include delivering climate mitigation and adaptation, nature restoration and high quality food production; and, increased equality of opportunity, improving business resilience, efficiency and profitability.



This work will also be informed by the outcomes from the consultation launched in August on key themes from the reports of the Farmer-led Groups, the Farming and Food Production Future Policy Group, and the Climate Change Plan update as well as work done by others, including Farming for 1.5, WWF, the Scottish Food Coalition and Just Transition Commission. A preliminary package of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture will be developed by COP26.

We remain committed to supporting active farming and food production with direct payments, while ensuring that agriculture plays the leading role it needs to in delivering a net zero Scotland. As part of our future legislative reforms, by 2025 we will **shift half of all funding for farming and crofting from unconditional to conditional support**, with targeted outcomes for biodiversity gain and a drive towards low carbon approaches which improve resilience, efficiency and profitability.

Technology, science and innovation has a key role to play in making farming more climate and nature friendly. We want Scotland to be at the forefront of these advances and opportunities and will appoint a new Chief Scientific Advisor on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. We will continue to support the development of **vertical farming**. In our first 100 days, we co-invested in a new vertical farm, to be built at SRUC's Edinburgh campus, focusing on education and research and incorporating commercial and public engagement capacity. In addition, we are gathering evidence on benefits and barriers to vertical farm production systems via the Local Food Strategy Consultation, and are committed to exploring further support for these technologies over the next year.

In the coming year, we will support further research into how we maximise the role that slurry in Scotland might contribute to our renewable and bioenergy ambitions. This will inform the **publication of a Bioenergy Action Plan for Scotland in 2023**.

We will also **put in place measures to seek to double the amount of land used for organic farming by 2026**. This will build on the financial incentives we currently offer to farmers and crofters to convert to and manage their land under organic standards.

Alongside direct support for the sector as a whole, the Scottish Government will ensure that the people who work the land receive greater support, and that farming and agriculture are more diverse and representative. We will **consider options to see agricultural workers paid the living wage**, ensuring more money reaches rural communities and their families and helps tackle rural poverty.

We will continue to modernise tenant farming – a key part of the rural economy and, for some farmers and new entrants, the only route to entry. We will bring the remaining provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 into force, with regulations to **tackle issues of enforced sale, and removing the requirement to register an interest in pre-emptive right to buy**. We will also legislate as part of wider agricultural support reform **to ensure tenant farmers and smallholders have the same access to climate change and mitigation measures**; a revised approach to rent reviews; and consider how valuation for resumption should be assessed. We will also begin to modernise small landholding legislation and will consult on the reform of trust law that enables avoidance of legal obligations like the pre-emptive right to buy for tenant farmers.

To ensure a sustainable future for agriculture we must have new people coming through, and support a generational renewal. In the coming year, we will begin work as part of the wider reform agenda to determine how best to support new and young entrants into farming.

We will ensure women living or working in Scottish agriculture will be empowered to develop their skills, access opportunities and realise their potential, creating equality of opportunity and prosperity, and supporting business innovation. We will **double support to £600,000 per year over the course of this Parliament to deliver practical solutions to improve the lives of women living and working in agriculture**, including enabling women to build more resilient businesses.

Alongside agriculture, the marine economy is a significant contributor to the Scottish economy, and particularly to rural communities – it provides £4.3 billion in gross value added, accounting for 3.0% of the overall Scottish economy, and employment for 74,200 people. As with agriculture, however, this Scottish success is threatened by the impact of EU exit, and the UK Government must maintain its commitment to provide marine funding lost to Scotland with EU Exit, with an allocation of £62 million a year. As a priority these sectors need access to the EU single market and we will do all we can to regain markets and opportunities for our fish and seafood sector. **We will publish a strategy for seafood in 2022** with actions to revitalise the sector consistent with a sustainable and natural capital approach, to ensure remote and rural communities benefit from activity to support growth.

We will continue to implement the actions set out in our ten year Sea Fisheries Management Strategy, including the **introduction of a new Future Catching Policy and rollout of Remote Electronic Monitoring** to key parts of the fishing fleet, supporting local management of inshore fisheries, developing more sustainable fisheries and inshore fishing opportunities consistent with a natural capital approach. We will increase the benefit for local areas where there is fishing, ensuring quota is in the hands of active fishers and increasing the proportion of fish landed into Scotland, through the **introduction of a Scottish economic link licence condition**.

Within the marine economy, aquaculture brings significant benefits to both the national economy, representing the UK's largest food export, and Scotland's rural economy, supporting over 12,000 jobs, many of which are based in our coastal communities. However, the environmental concerns are recognised, and we must ensure an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the sector. We will **deliver a Scottish Government led vision for sustainable aquaculture** which places an enhanced emphasis on environmental protection and community benefits – and explore how producers can contribute more to support inspection services, reduce their environmental impact, provide real community benefit, and support innovation. In the Scottish Government's first 100 days, we have **appointed Professor Russell Griggs to lead an independent review of fish farming regulatory processes**, as a first step to reform and streamline regulatory processes so that development is more responsive, transparent and efficient. Professor Griggs has been tasked with making recommendations for further work by December 2021.

We will take forward an **immediate programme of work to better protect wildlife and the environment**, responding to the Salmon Interactions Working Group, consult on a spatially adaptive sea lice risk assessment framework for fish farms by the end of the year, and strengthen controls on sea lice, wrasse and fish escapes in the course of 2021-22.

Alongside the highest environmental standards in our marine and rural economies, we will ensure the highest standards of animal health and welfare, including the **creation of a new dedicated Scottish Veterinary Service** within this Parliament, to ensure there are highly trained staff to provide Scotland with good animal health and food safety to meet all our needs across the public and private sector for animal health issues.



Before 2025, we will **review animal welfare legislation**, and also take forward a range of legislative measures over this Parliament, including:

- Introduce a Bill this year to strengthen the law relating to the use of dogs to hunt and flush foxes and other wild mammals, implementing the majority of the recommendations of the independent report on the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, and introduce further measures such as preventing trail hunting.
- Work with other UK administrations on legislation to control exports of livestock and imports of dogs, modernise zoo licensing, and control import and sale of products that raise ethical concerns such as fur.
- Start consultation this year on proposals to improve animal transport legislation, and phase out cages for gamebirds and laying hens, and farrowing crates for pigs.
- Consult on legislation to extend the framework for licensing of activities involving animals, to new areas such as performing animals and animal care services
- Implement recent livestock worrying legislation which will come into force in November 2021.
- Through an independent taskforce, consider whether the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Scottish SPCA) should be given extra legislative powers to investigate wildlife crime. This group will report before the end of 2022.

- Review the wider species licensing system with a view to ensuring that the law is being applied correctly and that lethal control is only licensed where the conditions required for such a licence are demonstrably being met. The review will also assess the potential to apply the principle of full cost recovery to species licensing and the introduction of a public register of licenses to improve transparency.
- Review the current Honey Bee Health Strategy by December 2021 and publish a new strategy by June 2022.

While the majority of those tasked with managing land already follow best practice guidance, the evidence is clear that urgent action is needed to tackle wildlife crime and to address the environmental impacts of intensive grouse moor management. We will support the transition to more economically and environmentally productive uses of land where appropriate and **deliver the recommendations of the Grouse Moor Management Review Group** as a matter of urgency, including the licensing of grouse moors. Licensing or further regulation will cover the key areas identified in the review, including muirburn, wildlife control, the use of medicated grit and wildlife crime. Licensing will be supported by clear penalties to encourage compliance, as well as additional effort to detect wildlife crime.

We will also modernise deer management, implementing the recommendations of the Deer Management Working Group. While an iconic Scottish species, wild deer populations have been steadily increasing, and high numbers and population densities have a devastating impact on the environment. It is vital we protect tree-planting, woodland regeneration and peatland restoration from further damage if we are to meet our climate change and biodiversity commitments. We will introduce **a new cull return system**, to ensure proportionate deer management plans, **modernise existing legislation**, including deer close seasons and use of specialist equipment when managing deer, and **design future agricultural support schemes to encourage a reduction in grazing pressure in the uplands**.

### Strengthening Scotland's food supply chains

The food and drink growth sector remains a vital contributor to Scotland's economic wellbeing and our global reputation and identity, contributing £5.6 billion in value added per year and providing around 122,000 jobs, across the length and breadth of the country. We will support sustainable, inclusive growth and prosperity of the sector.

## Through the Food and Drink Recovery Plan

**we will take action to offer more Scottish produce and fresh, healthy products, closer to where people live.**



We will **introduce a Good Food Nation Bill**, providing a clear, legislative framework which places responsibilities on Scottish Ministers and specified public bodies to publish and adhere to statements of policy on food, and require those statements to set out the main outcomes to be achieved in relation to food-related issues, the policies needed to do this and the indicators or other measures required to assess progress. We will further consider whether there is a need for a statutory body. In support of this work we will reinstate the Ministerial Working Group on Food.



To provide better coordination and support for local food production, in our first 100 days the Scottish Government has produced a **draft Local Food Strategy** – aimed at ‘grow your own’ initiatives, connecting Scottish producers with buyers, and harnessing public sector procurement – which we are now consulting on. Following the consultation we will update the strategy and develop and publish an action plan.

We will also undertake scoping work this year on a **single marketing brand for all Scottish produce – ‘Sustainably Scottish’** – which would be available to all Scottish-based producers, manufacturers and suppliers who can satisfy stringent criteria on provenance and low carbon operations. We have also recently opened applications to the 2021-22 **£7.3 million Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation fund**, offering grants to help food and drink processing businesses develop by partially funding capital and non-capital projects.

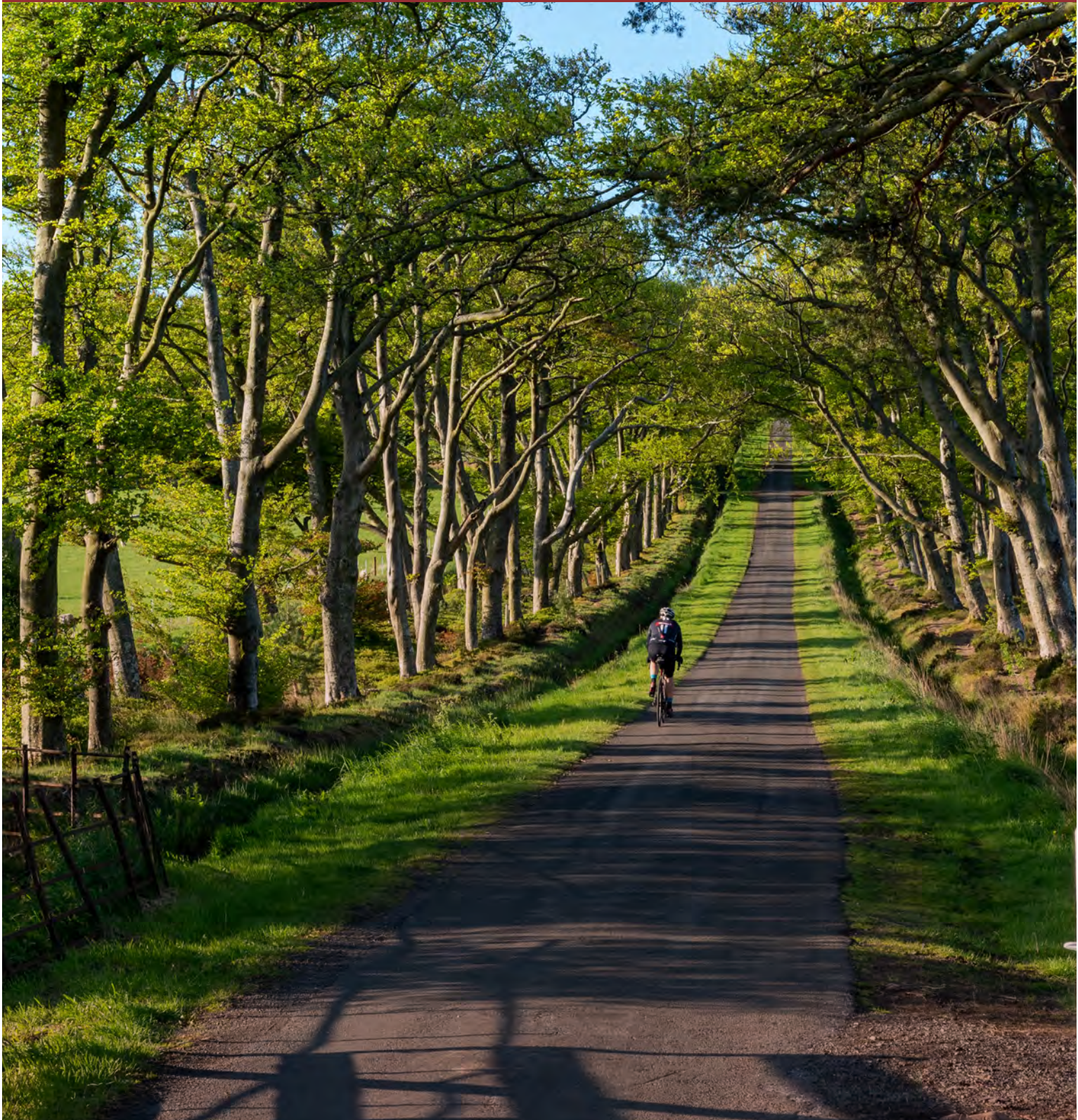
Through the wider Food and Drink Sector Recovery Plan, **we will take action to offer more Scottish produce and fresh, healthy products, closer to where people live.** This year, we are funding the Scottish Grocers Federation’s Go Local Programme – transforming 20 convenience stores to allow more fresh Scottish produce, with a healthier focus, to be sold – with a specific focus on disadvantaged areas. Alongside this, we funding Trellis, Social Farms & Gardens Scotland, and the Green Action Trust to encourage and support community growing – including outreach work to promote community growing in more disadvantaged areas.





## Chapter 5

### Living Better: Supporting thriving, resilient and diverse communities





### To support thriving, resilient and diverse communities, within the next 12 months we will:

- Provide £12 million to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, including £8 million for local authorities to support rapid rehousing plans and scale up the Housing First approach nationally.
- Publish and consult on a new Rented Sector Strategy, delivering a new deal for tenants.
- Run pilots which will inform a national rollout to provide free bikes for school age children who cannot afford one.
- Introduce low emissions zones in four of Scotland's cities – setting vehicle emissions limits for entry to certain road spaces, and restricting access for the most polluting vehicles.
- Produce a route map to reduce the use of cars – measured as 'car kilometres' – by 20% by 2030.
- Bring ScotRail into the public sector, and legislate for free bus travel for under-22's.
- Produce a new National Community Justice Strategy, supporting plans to invest in community justice services, including diversion from prosecution, and to promote alternatives to prison.
- Launch a new funding programme to provide practical and emotional support to victims, survivors and witnesses of crime across Scotland.

During the pandemic, most of us have been anchored more locally than ever before, and our homes and communities have in turn become even more important. But this has been a mixed experience for many people, not least those who still live in sub-standard accommodation and with a lack of greenspace. As Scotland rebuilds from the pandemic, we will work to ensure that our communities deliver a better standard of living than they did before: safer, more equal, greener and better-connected.

Within our communities, we will continue with significant improvements to the housing sector – delivering more affordable homes, strengthening tenants' rights, and eliminating rough sleeping. We will support local communities to become greener, improving local services and infrastructure. And we will invest in our public transport system, active travel infrastructure and roads, connecting communities to the goods and services we need and improving the lives of the people of Scotland. We will also work to increase the security of our communities.

### A Safe, Warm Place to Call Home

Housing to 2040 – Scotland's first long-term housing strategy – sets out our ambitions for how we want the housing and communities of the future to be, with actions on how to achieve that. We will now deliver on these ambitions – and ensuring there is a sufficient supply of affordable homes is a fundamental part of that.

# 110,000 energy efficient affordable homes by 2032

- at least **70%** will be in  
the social rented sector  
and **10%** in our remote, rural  
and island communities.



We will deliver **110,000 energy efficient, affordable homes by 2032** – at least 70% of which will be in the social rented sector and 10% in our remote, rural and island communities. The long-term target will support about £18 billion in total investment and up to 15,000 jobs a year, and contribute to Scotland becoming a net zero nation through modern, energy efficient housing. This commitment starts now.

To ensure this investment delivers benefits across Scotland, we will develop a Remote, Rural & Islands Housing action plan, to meet the housing needs of, and retain and attract people to, those communities, backed by **at least £45 million as part of our overall affordable housing supply programme funding in this parliamentary session.**

Our significant investment in heat decarbonisation will help ensure homeowners, landlords and tenants can access the support they need to adapt our homes to secure the necessary emissions reductions. We are **developing regulations to require new buildings where a building warrant is applied for from 2024 to use zero emissions heating** – ensuring that where there is an installed heating system it must produce zero direct greenhouse gas emissions at the point of use. We will also **review energy standards within current building regulations to deliver further improvement in energy efficiency and emissions reductions in new buildings**, helping make homes more affordable to heat and tackling fuel poverty – with our Fuel Poverty Strategy to be published by the end of the year.

All home and building upgrades – at the point of sale, change of tenancy, and refurbishment – will be required to meet at least EPC C standards or equivalent from 2025 onwards. And all homes will need to be upgraded by 2033 to ensure we meet our climate targets. We will undertake consultation on this next year, to ensure a fair approach and avoid unintended consequences, and provide support through an upscaled grants and an advisory service. Most immediately, we will end public subsidies for oil and LPG boilers.

We will lead by example, with **all new homes delivered by registered social landlords and local authorities to be zero emission homes by 2026.**

This year, we have launched a £30 million call for green heating and energy efficiency projects in social housing through the Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund – supporting projects that can accelerate the deployment of low carbon heat in existing social housing. We will keep the fund open with up to £100 million available over the course of this Parliament. The **short-life Zero Emissions Social Housing Task Force** has recently provided a set of recommendations which we will consider, setting out the next steps for the sector, in partnership with local and national government, the private and third sectors, and those who live in social housing.

The Scottish Government firmly believes that everyone in Scotland should have access to decent, permanent accommodation. Communities and national and local governments worked together during the pandemic to slash the numbers of people sleeping rough to a record low, and tenancy protections meant that far fewer people were made homeless compared to previous years. We will build on this in our mission to end homelessness and rough sleeping, and catch back up where time has been lost to the pandemic, to give people a stable base from which to live their lives.

We will invest £50 million over the course of this Parliament in a **new Ending Homelessness Together Fund, with £12 million in 2021-22**, across a range of projects, including £8 million for local authorities to support rapid rehousing plans and efforts to eradicate rough sleeping. Funding for rapid rehousing will also support the scaling up of Housing First, so that more people with complex needs can access mainstream housing and wraparound support. We will expand it beyond the current six pathfinder areas – Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling, with 540 tenancies provided to date – and ensure delivery across Scotland, supported by the development of a national framework on Housing First, and the introduction of quarterly monitoring.



We will maintain the good work seen during last winter, where we helped phase out night shelters and supported the introduction of rapid rehousing welcome centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow. These offer hotel room accommodation and provide under-one-roof and multi-agency assessment for people at the sharpest end of homelessness. We are working closely with local authorities and third sector partners to ensure that there is no return to dormitory style night shelters in the future. And we will **strengthen existing homelessness prevention legislation** and introduce new duties on public bodies to ask people about their housing situation and take action if needed, supporting the development of a culture of early intervention, consulting later this year. We will also lead work over the next three years to identify accommodation pathways for those with No Recourse to Public Funds.

The rental sector has grown substantially in recent years, and ensuring that everyone has a safe warm place to call home means providing everyone with the greatest rights and security regardless of tenure. Already within our first 100 days, the Scottish Government has begun development of a **new Draft Rented Sector Strategy** to promote affordable tenancies and safeguard tenants from unfair rent increases. We will publish the new strategy, focusing on delivering a new deal for tenants, before the end of the year, and consult on it next year. It will focus on ensuring outcomes and protections are the same for all tenants, no matter their tenure, and include plans to enhance and increase tenants' rights, giving them greater flexibility to decorate their home and keep pets and more protection from evictions over the winter, and increasing the penalties and compensation for illegal evictions.

The strategy will also aim to ensure rents are affordable through **an effective national system of rent controls**, with an appropriate mechanism to allow local authorities to introduce local measures that will be consulted on, and delivering a rent guarantor for estranged young people.

This ambitious transformative plan requires a number of legislative changes over the next few years that will begin with the **introduction of a new Housing Bill in Year 2 of this Parliament**, and further legislation to implement rent controls, and a new regulator, before the end of this Parliament.

To be truly called a home, accommodation needs to meet the needs of the communities living in it. With COSLA, we are committed to more and better Gypsy/Traveller accommodation, to allow Gypsy/Travellers to enjoy their right to an adequate home, while also maintaining cultural traditions. We have introduced a **new £20 million Gypsy/Traveller Accommodation Fund**, supporting local authorities to establish model sites. Funding proposals are currently being assessed, with the **first projects expected to start before the end of 2021-22**.

To provide certainty to taxpayers, **we will maintain the current rates and bands for residential Land Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT)** for the full parliamentary term. The **First Time Buyer relief will also remain in place**, in effect raising the nil rate band to £175,000 and resulting in a reduction of tax of up to £600. We will also explore ways in which we can provide further support for housing cooperatives, including potentially through LBTT relief. We will also undertake a review of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax **Additional Dwelling Supplement**, and consider the impact of the tax on homes in our remote and rural communities.

We have already **frozen Council Tax for this financial year**, and over this Parliament we will legislate to exempt young people from it until they reach the age of 22. We are committed to reforming Council Tax to make it fairer, working with the Scottish Green Party and COSLA to oversee the development of **effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, including Council Tax, that will culminate in a Citizens' Assembly**.

The memory of the Grenfell fire continues to haunt the whole of the UK. People living in flats with potentially unsafe cladding systems are understandably worried, both about their safety and about the financial cost to them of rectifying the issues. **Within our first 100 days, the Scottish Government has started cladding safety assessments** to support these home owners. By the end of this Parliament, we will create an inventory of cladding safety assessments and use the **Cladding Remediation Fund** to provide a financial contribution to remediation and/or mitigation measures in buildings identified as being at most risk.

### Living Locally & Connecting Communities

During the pandemic we have seen the power of communities working together to mobilise and support one another. We will build on what we have learned by supporting the organisations at the heart of communities to recover rapidly from the pandemic, and by ensuring we have good infrastructure in place to enable people to access the goods and services they need and for businesses to thrive.

Key to the resilience of our communities has been the work of Scotland's third sector. Building on the learning from the pandemic we will use our Strengthening Collaboration commitment with SCVO and COSLA to progress further a **multi-year funding model**. We will work with **Third Sector Interfaces**, who act as a single point of access for support and advice for third sector organisations in their local area, to strengthen their influence, and revise their funding formula to give more support to the areas of highest deprivation. We will bring forward legislation to improve Charity Law, strengthening the legal and regulatory framework and enhancing public trust in this vital sector.

Starting from April 2023, we will also provide up to **£16 million for each of the next two financial years in funding for third sector organisations** which work with children, families and adult learners, to ensure that sustained, high quality support is available to vulnerable groups.

We will also support the **social enterprise sector** as it works to tackle pressing social issues including homelessness and climate change – investing £5 million over three years to help community organisations recover from the pandemic, give every child the opportunity to engage with a social enterprise during their time at school, and promote international social enterprises in emerging markets like Africa and South East Asia.

Being grounded in our neighbourhoods has pressed home the importance to our health, wellbeing and prosperity of ensuring that those homes are well-connected and well-serviced. Over the course of this Parliament, we will deliver on our vision for **“20-minute neighbourhoods”**: places where people can have their needs met locally within a 20-minute walk from their homes, reducing emissions and encouraging active travel. Our fourth National Planning Framework will ensure that all future planning decisions support meeting this ambition, and **in September we will launch a new ‘Our Place’ website**. This will provide information, tools and resources to help support the development of places and services that improve our health, prosperity, and quality of life, and protect our environment. We are continuing to deliver the Work Local Challenge Programme, working with partners including the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre and Scottish Futures Trust on innovation and deployment of local work hubs and office space solutions to enhance workplace choices.



From this year, we are delivering our **Place Based Investment programme, backed with £325 million over the next five years**. This will provide financial support and a focus for government, local authority and other sectors to facilitate, coordinate and deliver place based collaboration and action. Through repurposing of land and buildings, the investment will revitalise town centres, provide new space for local businesses and jobs, and support the resilience and wellbeing of communities across Scotland. The programme of investment includes continued delivery of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, our ongoing sponsorship of Clyde Gateway, funding that is being allocated directly to Scotland's local authorities and providing support to communities to shape local action to accelerate our shared ambitions for place, and 20-minute neighbourhoods. Complementing this, we are also now rolling out our new **£50 million low carbon Vacant & Derelict Land Investment Programme** over the next five years, supporting ambitious local approaches to unblocking the reuse of persistent vacant and derelict land to deliver new green infrastructure, supporting a just transition to net zero.

Key to the resilience of communities has been the action taken by communities themselves. We will build on this to ensure that resilience can be sustained as part of our recovery and renewal through our Empowering Communities Programme. The programme provides support to the hundreds of community anchor organisations across the country, enabling communities to take more control and make a difference in tackling inequalities on their own terms, shaping their own futures.

Safe and reliable active travel options will be vital to securing our 20-minute neighbourhood ambitions, and our commitment to be a net zero nation – creating safe, clean, and interlinked communities, and helping reduce emissions in our villages, towns and cities. We will make a generational shift in funding over this Parliament to ensure that at least £320 million or **10% of the total transport budget goes on active travel by 2024-25** – making it more attractive for people to walk, wheel and cycle.

## Active travel

**We will ensure that 10% of the total transport budget is spent on active travel over the course of this Parliament.**

£320 million



**– an increase to at least £320 million by 2024-25**

We've already started to make good on that commitment: in this government's first 100 days, we have established six pilot schemes to **provide free bikes for school age children who cannot afford one**, with more to follow later in the autumn, which will inform a national rollout. These pilots will run for up to 12 months, testing out different approaches and delivery models to understand how best we can give children access to bikes. In addition, we will use the increased budget for active travel to deliver a range of projects, including:

- A new Cycling Framework for Active Travel – to be published in 2022
- Establishing an active freeway network for Scotland, comprising local networks within towns and cities and connecting settlements and major destinations with high quality, safe routes
- Maintaining the Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme, helping get old bikes out of storage and back onto our roads, as well as keeping well-used bikes pedalling smoothly and safely

- Increasing the Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes grant for active travel infrastructure on local roads
- Investment in the Sustrans 30 year National Cycle Network Plan

In delivering our ambitions for more active travel across our communities, it is vital that we have a safe network which people of all ages and abilities can use. We will work with local authorities to encourage more Safe to School initiatives, with the aim of ensuring every child who lives within two miles of school is able to walk or wheel safely. We will **ensure all appropriate roads in built-up areas have a safer speed limit of 20 mph by 2025**, forming a task group to plan the most effective route for implementation.



Taken together, our investment in transport decarbonisation and improvements, and active travel, will help drive forward our commitment to **reduce the use of cars – measured as ‘car kilometres’ – by 20% by 2030**, securing progress to net zero, improving people’s wellbeing through increased active travel, and contributing to safer, cleaner and healthier communities.

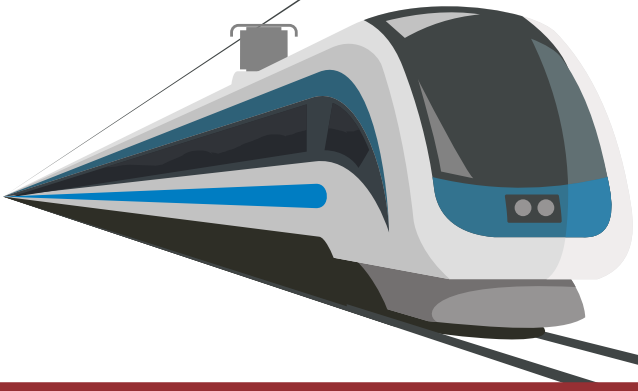
We will **produce a route map by the end of 2021** to set out how we intend to achieve this, and publish an analysis of options to assess and identify demand management options, locally and nationally, to encourage the use of active travel and public transport as an alternative to cars. A key milestone will be the introduction of **low emission zones in four of Scotland’s cities by the end of May 2022** – setting a vehicle emissions limit for entry to certain road spaces, thereby restricting access for the most polluting vehicles. We will also progress our ongoing review of transport governance to align with climate and traffic reduction targets and deliver our active travel goals.

Where people need to travel, we will work to make our public transport systems available, safe and affordable for users; reliable, sustainable and a strong alternative to private car; and integrated, fair and financially sustainable.

Within the government’s first 100 days, we have introduced legislation for free bus travel for people aged under 22. We will now go further, and **commission a Fair Fares Review** of the discounts and concessionary schemes which are available on all transport modes, and consider options against a background where the costs of car travel are declining and public transport costs are increasing. To support services which meet local needs, we will also introduce a **Community Bus Fund**, supporting local transport authorities to improve local public transport in their areas. The fund will support local transport authorities to explore the full range of options set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, including municipal bus services.



## Bring ScotRail into public ownership from March 2022



We have also **begun the process of bringing ScotRail into public ownership and control**, aiming for this to be complete from the end of March 2022, when the current franchise agreement is expected to end.

We will make **improvements to rail connections** across the country, including improving connections to Glasgow on the South Western line; opening Dalcross railway station, and a fully accessible relocated Hairmyres station; and reopening Fife's Levenmouth rail link. We also want to see improved rail connections to and from Scotland across the UK and will press the UK Government to commit to faster rail routes between Scotland and England and establish connections between the Caledonian Sleeper service and the Eurostar.

Under specific circumstances, and balanced with our climate change responsibilities, we recognise the need to address our road infrastructure – in many instances it is the only link remote and rural communities have to vital services, ensuring they can feel the benefits of inclusive growth.

During this Parliament, **new roads projects will normally only be taken forward where they reduce the maintenance backlog, address road safety concerns or adapt the network to deal with the impacts of climate change or benefit communities such as by bypassing settlements**, and we will not build road infrastructure to cater for forecast unconstrained increases in traffic volumes.

We will, however, continue to take forward work on the current roads programme, including design work on upgrading the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan. We will also respond to landslides at the Rest and Be Thankful on the A83 by developing a long-term, resilient and sustainable solution for this transport corridor, with work to establish it starting as soon as possible.

In 2021-22 we will progress the dualling of the A9. The section between Luncarty and Pass of Birnam fully opened to traffic on 28 August 2021, and we will award the construction contract for the section between Tomatin and Moy in 2022 along with identifying a preferred route option at Birnam and Dunkeld.

**We will take forward a transport enhancements programme on the A96 corridor** that improves connectivity between surrounding towns, tackles congestion and addresses safety and environmental issues, including dualling from Inverness to Nairn; bypassing of Nairn, Keith, Elgin and Inverurie accompanied by measures to remove through traffic from the bypassed town centres; targeted road safety improvements where needed, for example between Fochabers and Huntly and from Inverurie to Aberdeen; and, the development of an A96 "Electric Highway". Current plans are to fully dual the A96 from Inverness to Aberdeen; however, we will undertake a transparent, evidence-based review of that, to include a climate compatibility assessment to assess direct and indirect impacts on the climate and the environment, reporting by the end of 2022.

We will also develop **a programme of wider enhanced public transport improvements in North East Scotland**, including work to improve the resilience, reliability and efficiency of the Aberdeen to Inverness rail corridor, alongside our commitment to decarbonise the rail network, to make it more competitive with road and encourage modal shift for passengers and freight; work with Nestrans, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils on the feasibility of a mass rapid transit system, and a rail link between Dyce and Ellon and further north to Peterhead and Fraserburgh; and a review the A96 corridor with a view to implementing appropriate bus priority measures.

To deliver on our ambitions for island and rural communities, it is vital that they have the necessary connectivity – linking them appropriately with the whole country, and ensuring they can access the same services and opportunities as their neighbours on the mainland. This year we have provided an increase of £7.7 million in grant support for interisland ferries and are **committed to maintaining the Road Equivalent Tariff on all current island ferry routes** – helping make ferry travel more affordable and more accessible, and enhancing island economies. Over the coming year, we will also prepare the Islands Connectivity Plan (ICP) to be published by the end of 2022, developing proposals to support delivery of the National Islands Plan. We will assess the model of delivery of ferry services to deliver accountability, transparency and good outcomes for communities.

Across the next two years we will also provide **£30 million of funding for the design and construction of replacement, or major maintenance, of Lifeline Local Authority bridges**. And through the development of the Strategic Transport Review 2, to be concluded by the end of 2021, we will assess the evidence base for fixed links to islands and remote communities.

As recognised in Phase 1 of our second Strategic Transport Projects Review, one of the major barriers to public transport use has been connectivity, and a lack of convenient end-to-end travel options. We seek to align timetables where possible – however, establishing further transport integration across modes at key ferry terminals will benefit rural and island communities and visitors alike. To support integrated journeys at ferry terminals, we will identify locations and options for intervention, informing the Islands Connectivity Plan.

### Delivering Safer Communities

Our police and emergency services have been our mainstay during the pandemic: keeping us safe, and taking on the new, difficult task of making sure that people were abiding by the evolving restrictions. We will continue to **protect the police resource budget in real terms** for the entirety of this Parliament – providing a stable basis from which to improve service delivery and enhance the safety and security of communities across Scotland. We will also support the **modernisation of our fire and rescue service**, investing to allow it to expand its work on fire prevention and fire safety with vulnerable households, and improve firefighters' emergency medical response capability, in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

In creating safer communities, the Scottish Government believes that imprisonment is often inherently damaging, particularly when used for less serious offences or for short periods of time. Removing people from their homes, jobs, families and neighbourhoods – the very things that reduce reoffending – should only be contemplated where absolutely necessary. As a progressive and humane society, we should be working towards **using prison only for those who pose a risk of serious harm**. To support that long-term aim, we will introduce legislation in this parliamentary term to change the way that imprisonment is used, with consultation on initial proposals relating to bail and release from custody law this autumn.

This will be underpinned by **investment in a substantial expansion of community justice services** supporting diversion from prosecution, alternatives to remand and community sentencing, which evidence shows is more effective at reducing reoffending. We will develop and launch **a new National Community Justice Strategy** next spring, setting out clear aims with an emphasis on early intervention and encouraging a further shift away from the use of custody. Over the next two years, we will continue work to ensure that **restorative justice services** – which support constructive dialogue between offenders and those affected by their offence – are widely available across Scotland by 2023.

Where imprisonment is the only safe recourse, we will **modernise Scotland's prison estate**, investing over £500 million over this Parliament. In 2022, we will deliver a new model for female custody, with a new Women's National Facility at HMP Cornton Vale supplemented by two Community Custody Units in Glasgow and Dundee. By 2026, we will also replace HMP Barlinnie and HMP Inverness with two new modern prisons for adult males, HMP Glasgow and HMP Highland. We will introduce a **new health and wellbeing strategy** to address health inequality among prisoners and make use of digital solutions like video conferencing, and maintain funding for Prison Visitor Centres, supporting, advising and advocating for families with loved ones in prison.

We will also consider new legislation to prevent harm in our communities. **By the end of this parliamentary year, we will bring forward a Bill to tighten the law around the sale and use of fireworks and the misuse of pyrotechnics.** We will also review the Dangerous Dogs Act to inform future policy and legislative changes to **tackle irresponsible dog ownership.** This will be coupled with better training and resources for dog wardens from this year on, and delivery of a national database by the end of 2021, for rollout to local authorities in 2022, to bring together information on dog-control notices served by local authorities. And we will begin the development of an online reporting system – a 1-year pilot project enabling anyone to upload camera footage of dangerous driving.

### **Empowering & Protecting Victims of Crime through Improving Services**

While we have seen reductions in crimes recorded across most local authorities during the pandemic, we need to build on the progress that has been made and redouble our efforts to protect and empower victims of crime. **This year, we will launch a new funding programme to provide practical and emotional support to victims, survivors and witnesses of crime across Scotland.**

We will ensure that victims of crime are treated with kindness and sensitivity throughout their interaction with the justice system, recognising the trauma that many have experienced. **We will introduce a new framework, specific to the justice system, to give staff the knowledge and skills they need to understand and adopt a trauma-informed approach,** helping them to support victims more compassionately. We will also prepare for the necessary legislative process to **appoint a Victims' Commissioner,** who will provide an independent voice for victims, champion their views and encourage policy makers and criminal justice agencies to put victims' rights at the heart of justice.

It takes immense courage for someone to come forward and make a complaint about a sexual crime committed against them – it is our responsibility to ensure that victims who do come forward are not re-traumatised all over again through their interaction with the justice system. Following consultation on the detailed arrangements, we will **introduce legislation to protect the anonymity of all complainers of sexual crimes** under Scots law. And we will give serious consideration to the recommendations of the Dorrian Review, including the introduction of specialist courts, and allowing victims to pre-record their evidence.

Domestic abuse is a crime and it is appalling that it has increased during the COVID-19 restrictions – there is no place for it in society. That is why, as part of our 100 days commitments, we have already invested an additional £5 million in **supporting frontline organisations which tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence** to deal with the additional pressures that have occurred during the pandemic. Building on that, and starting this

year, **we will invest over £100 million to support frontline services and focus on prevention of violence against women and girls from school onward over the next three years.** That figure includes the enhanced Delivering Equally Safe Fund, which we have increased by £12 million to £38 million, providing over £28 million to support frontline services, and £2 million for prevention over the next two years.

We will also commission an independent review to establish positive practice and further areas for improvement to tackle gender based violence and sexual abuse in educational settings. In addition, we will progress work to tackle violence against men and boys, investing in services which support male survivors of rape and domestic abuse.

**£100 million  
over the next  
three years**

**- helping frontline organisations prevent violence against women and girls.**



We will remain committed to investing in interventions which provide evidence of being able to change the attitudes of offenders – expanding. We will **expand the availability of the Caledonian System, and increasing our investment to £10 million over the next two years.** This is an internationally recognised behavioural change programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse which involves working with the whole family to reduce the risk of harm to women and children. We will progress work over the next two years to support the national rollout of the system, with the aim of making it available to all 32 Scottish local authorities by the end of the parliamentary term.

Misogyny fuels violence against women and girls, and allows harmful societal norms and behaviours to persist within our society. The **Working Group on Misogyny and Criminal Justice in Scotland** is expected to report in February next year. Should the working group recommend a specific criminal offence to tackle misogynistic conduct, the Scottish Government will consider and act swiftly on its advice. We will also undertake to develop a model for Scotland which effectively tackles and challenges men's demand for prostitution.

#### **Reforming the Justice System to Make Scotland Fairer, Safer & More Equal**

We are proud of Scotland's justice system and our distinctive Scots law. We will build on their foundations to bring in targeted reforms aimed at making Scottish justice still stronger and better. During this year, we will **launch a public consultation on the three verdict system** and whether the not-proven verdict should be abolished. **We will also consider reform of the corroboration rule**, engaging with justice partners, opposition parties and people with direct experience of the criminal justice system to develop a shared understanding of the evolving legal position, and the implications and potential unintended consequences of corroboration reform, including in relation to sexual crimes.



The **Scottish Government's law officers**, amongst other roles, act as the head of the independent prosecution service and as members of the Scottish Government. We will consult on whether the prosecution and government functions of the law officers should be separated.

We have already begun to address the backlog of court cases that accumulated during the pandemic, providing £50 million this year to help drive forward recovery. We will **review how offending is dealt with** by the summary justice process, to make access to justice as efficient and effective as possible. We will engage with both legal professionals and victim support organisations to review the Legal Aid system, **and will introduce a Legal Aid Reform Bill in this Parliament**, ensuring that the system is flexible, easy to access and meets the needs of those who use it.

And we will also launch a **public consultation on reform of legal services regulation**, expected later in 2021, to consider what changes may be required to the statutory framework to protect consumer interests and promote a flourishing legal sector.

Access to the courts is an important part of upholding individual rights and the rule of law; but there are times when other non-litigious means of resolving disputes are preferable, notably in non-criminal proceedings. The Scottish Government will work with stakeholders to **expand the availability of mediation and arbitration services within the civil justice system**. The Scottish Government is working with stakeholders, and will consult on future changes as appropriate, to give people access to flexible, affordable and less stressful means of settling disputes, benefitting them and saving time in courts.

To safeguard the **independence and reputation of the judiciary**, we will begin work on establishing a register of interests of its members to increase public confidence and improve transparency.

Scotland's police officers work hard every day to keep their communities safe, and have shown a strong, rights-based approach to compliance during the pandemic. We will work to build on that model of policing by consent. To better understand and service the needs of our communities, we will support Police Scotland and wider partners to improve the diversity of their workforce and to enhance the quality of data across the justice system.

We will support Police Scotland and wider partners to build on improvement work in response to **Dame Elish Angiolini's review**. We intend to accept and implement the majority of Dame Elish's findings following consultation in 2022. This will include bringing forward a Bill and Regulations to promote fairness and transparency and strengthen public confidence in our police.

We want Scotland's police force to benefit from and take advantage of new technologies, such as body-worn video, but to do so in a controlled way that commands public confidence. The **Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies will report to Ministers in 2022**, recommending changes that should be made to existing legislative frameworks and policing practices: we will respond to its findings and act to ensure there is robust scrutiny and oversight where new technology is adopted.

We will also address the disproportionate consequences and stigma suffered by many miners as a result of their participation in the 1984-85 strike. We will **bring forward a Miners' Strike Pardon Bill**, and implement the pardon as soon as practicable should it become law – restoring the good name of the miners, and bringing comfort to their friends and families, and to former mining communities.

We will also support and resource the **Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry** in its thorough scrutiny of the circumstances of his tragic death.



## Chapter 6

### Scotland in the World:

Promoting democratic participation at home and abroad, and increasing our international standing



**To promote democratic participation at home and abroad, and increase our international standing, within the next 12 months we will:**

- Provide a £1.25 million fund to help libraries stay open, particularly in areas of deprivation.
- Develop and submit a joint proposal with COSLA to the UK Government to take forward a Rural Visa pilot.
- Start to increase our International Development Fund from £10 million to £15 million.
- Provide £500,000 to help support local authorities to accommodate unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in Scotland.
- Open a new Scottish Government Office in Copenhagen, increasing Scotland's economic and cultural visibility.
- Support a new £500,000 fund for local organisations in international development partner countries to take forward work to ensure women and girls are safe, equal and respected.
- Expand our Residential Fellowship Programme to train women to take on leadership roles in mitigating the effects of climate change.

While the pandemic feels like it has cut us off from the world, it has also reaffirmed how inextricably connected we are to the rest of the globe. Scotland is a proudly internationalist nation and we will embrace the opportunities of international connection and cooperation, acting as a good global citizen to champion our values-based approach on the world stage, starting at home by ensuring that we are a truly participatory democracy.

We will welcome the world to Scotland – funding the reinvigoration of our culture industries, and using the levers at our disposal to encourage people from all nations to stay in, move to and feel they belong in Scotland – while pressing the UK Government to adopt a humane approach to the reserved issues of migration and asylum. With a view to re-joining the EU as soon as we are able to, we will preserve Scotland's good relations with the EU and implement our commitment to align with EU standards and laws, and we will affirm the need for international cooperation to solve global issues.

**Standing up for democracy**

Our democratic values are at the core of our freedom and identity as a nation, and we will work to ensure that the democratic rights of the people of Scotland are fostered and protected. We will **bring forward legislation on electoral reform**, to be in force before the next Scottish Parliament elections, that will enable more people to stand

as candidates at Scottish Parliament and local government elections and improve the accessibility of elections, with a particular focus on people with sight-loss. We will also **work to increase voter registration and active participation in elections by under-represented groups**, including non-UK citizens and young people. And we will continue investment in our **Access to Elected Office Fund**, providing financial support for disabled people seeking selection to overcome the practical barriers they face.

A new but core feature of Scotland's participatory democracy is the use of **Citizens' Assemblies** – bringing together people to generate new ideas, adding fairness and equality to the policy-making process, and improving trust between government and the people it serves. The first Citizens' Assembly produced major recommendations covering how decisions are taken, including a call for further use of Citizens' Assemblies. This Programme for Government sets out action in areas identified by the Assembly, including commitments to the Scottish National Health Service, young people and the environment; a full response will be published in the autumn. An expert group will report by the autumn with recommendations to Ministers on institutionalising inclusive participatory democracy across Scotland's democratic processes, including future governance and question setting for Citizens' Assemblies.



We will establish a working group with representation from the Scottish Green Party, and engagement with COSLA, to oversee the development of **effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, including Council Tax, that culminate in a Citizens' Assembly**. The Assembly will be established and completed in this Parliament, with a response to its recommendations debated and agreed within 6 months of being provided. We will also introduce a brand new Citizens' Assembly for under 16's, so that the generation who will grow up with the consequences of the decisions we take now can be involved in making them. We will also consider a new approach to ensuring the interests of future generations are taken into account in decisions made today, through a **Future Generations Commission**.

We will **ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of public interest journalism in Scotland**. We will listen and respond to the recommendations of the Public Interest Journalism Working Group, due this summer, to ensure journalism in Scotland remains transparent and strong, as a key element of Scottish democracy.



### Strengthening our world-class culture offer

Scotland has a diverse and world-class cultural scene and rich heritage of which we can all be proud. It is recognised globally, and enjoyed by an international audience, but closer to home it has the power to inspire, enrich and transform people's lives and our communities. While the pandemic has clearly taken a significant toll on the sector, we will support it to recover and flourish and ensure it can continue to enrich our lives, put Scotland on the world stage with the development of a Cultural Diplomacy Strategy, and contribute to our own sense of nation and place. The Scottish Government will revise its Creative Industries Policy Statement to articulate its priorities for the future development of the creative industries, in light of the impacts of EU Exit, the COVID-19 pandemic, and our ambition to build a greener and fairer future.

## Support the recovery of the culture sector

with **£25 million**  
in our first 100 days.





Within our first 100 days, we have made £25 million available to help creative and performance organisations catch back up and recover, despite the fact that only £9 million of culture consequential has been confirmed so far from the UK Government. We will continue to press the UK Government to deliver the consequential in full, and will pass on that vital funding in full to the sector once we receive it.

To support and encourage artists to collaborate as the sector recovers, we will look to evaluate and continue to invest in Culture Collective. We will also invest in much-needed stability for the cultural organisations that we provide regular funding for, by agreeing **3-year funding settlements**, to allow them to plan for a sustainable recovery. And we will **support the V&A Dundee** to become a National Centre for Design, and to lead and inspire the contribution of design to our economic recovery.

Participation in cultural and creative activities helps young people grow confidently as citizens and, more than ever, plays an important role in fostering wellbeing and supporting attainment. We will continue our support for our **Youth Music Initiative**, expanding it to other art forms, and our annual funding for Sistema Scotland's 'Big Noise' programme.



Libraries also play a critical role in providing access to culture and, increasingly, in delivering services that support community wellbeing. Given the extraordinary and varying impact of the pandemic on libraries in some parts of Scotland, **we will provide a one-off fund of up to £1.25 million**

**through the Scottish Libraries and Information Council** to help them to stay open and support their communities, particularly in areas of deprivation.

We will ensure that Scotland's cultural sector has the skills, infrastructure and opportunities it needs for continued success, and we will use COP26 as an opportunity to enhance its contribution towards Scotland becoming a net zero nation. We will continue to work with creative and cultural businesses to enhance their digital and data skills, building on our £1 million Creative Digital Initiative launched in 2021, and support them in gaining access to new opportunities and markets, as well as to develop data-driven innovation in the creative industries. We will invest over the course of this Parliament to increase industry access to capital funding to promote green cultural infrastructure across Scotland, contributing to reductions in pollution and emissions at our historic and cultural sites. We will also begin work on establishing a 'Percentage for the Arts' scheme to require that a small percentage of spending on all new public buildings and spaces is channelled into support for culture and community art commissions.

Working with Screen Scotland through its partnership with the skills and the enterprise agencies, we will support the development of skills, facilities and opportunities to tap the full potential of the sector. We will continue to support new studio space, increase skills provision across the sector, including through increasing training and apprenticeship placements, and press the BBC and other broadcasters to increase production from Scotland. And, we will provide additional resources to Screen Scotland, to facilitate year-round engagement between the Scottish and international film and studio industries.

Recognising the importance of place in Scottish culture, and to support communities to celebrate and preserve their heritage, this year we will start work on designing **a National Towns of Culture scheme, to be launched over this Parliament**. In addition, we will develop our tourism infrastructure, in both urban and rural areas, **investing £10 million** in initiatives like the Inverness Castle Project and Lossiemouth East Beach footbridge, and improving rural hotel facilities.

Scottish culture is important in and of itself – it brings meaning and enjoyment to lives across the nation, preserves our stories and heritage, and teaches us about our place in the world – but also for its contribution to our international standing. We will **refresh and reinvigorate our successful Brand Scotland activity**. Over the next year we will create a new brand marque, and build on existing campaign activity, to enhance Scotland's international reputation and our position as an attractive place to live, work, study, visit and do business.



We will be enthusiastic in taking up opportunities to showcase Scotland for an international audience. This year's Winter Festivals – from St Andrew's Day in November through to Burns Night in January – will encourage local communities and visitors alike to celebrate what is great about Scotland, providing an immediate boost to the tourism and events sectors. Recognising it was one of the first to lock down and last to restart, we will continue to work with the events sector on recovery and on the review of our national events strategy, which has been delayed by the pandemic. 2022 will see the launch of Scotland's Year of Stories, encouraging both locals and visitors to explore the places, people and culture connected to Scotland's myriad of stories, past and present. In August 2023, Scotland will host the first ever **Cycling World Championships**, expected to draw up to 2 million spectators. To inspire Scots to take up cycling and reap the benefits for their health, we will roll out a new **£8 million Cycling Facilities Investment Fund** ahead of the championships. **From early next year, we will work with the UK and Republic of Ireland to progress a joint bid to host the 2030 FIFA world cup.**

**We are supporting our festivals and performers to get back into the international spotlight**, and ensure they stay globally competitive. We are providing £2 million this year for the EXPO Fund, £1 million for the Edinburgh Festivals' Platform for Creative Excellence programme, and £1 million for the Edinburgh Festivals Gateway, supporting a safe and successful return for our major festivals. In our first 100 days, we have also committed the first £375,000 of £750,000 towards a new round of the Touring Fund for Theatre and Dance, and £750,000 to 'Scotland on Tour', a new Scotland Touring Fund for Music, to help theatre and music reach into communities and venues across the country.

When international travel restrictions allow, the cultural and creative sectors will return to an international landscape drastically changed by the pandemic. We will support the sector to re-engage with international work, adapt and access new markets. We will push the UK Government to work with the EU to deliver free movement for performers, artists, musicians and freelancers, and ensure there are no barriers to those looking to tour and perform in Scotland.

In 2019, Scotland was better connected with the rest of the world than ever before. We will work with Scotland's airports to help restore lost connectivity, and grow international connectivity, while not returning to previous levels of emissions. Separately, we will review **Air Passenger Duty** rates and bands ahead of the introduction of the devolved Air Departure Tax to ensure that our policy aligns with our climate change goals, including the possibility of a higher tax for more polluting aircraft, while maintaining our commitment to retain the Highlands and Islands exemption.

Welcoming the world also means renewing and reaffirming our auld acquaintance. We will engage with our **Scottish Connections** international community and expand on our work with Scottish diaspora networks across the world. We will take forward work to breathe new life into **twinning initiatives with European regions, states, towns and cities**, holding firm to our long-standing friendships in the aftermath of the UK's exit from the EU.

### Creating welcoming communities

EU exit does not just impact on relationships with our neighbours, but on the lives of more than 200,000 EU citizens who have made Scotland their home. They are a part of, and contribute immeasurably to, Scotland. We will build on our **Stay in Scotland campaign**, providing advice and support to EU citizens who have been compelled to apply to the UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme. We will provide advice and support to EU citizens in securing their status and accessing services. To safeguard them against the UK Government's hostile environment, EU citizens should have the option of physical proof of their status. We have explored options for delivering this physical proof directly, but it is not within devolved powers; we will press the UK Government to provide access to physical proof.

Without powers over immigration, there is a limited number of levers we can pull to encourage people to move to Scotland; but we will do what we can with the powers available to address Scotland's demographic challenges. We will develop a **Migration Service for Scotland** to support those who have chosen to make Scotland their home.

EU exit will leave a particularly damaging gap in our rural communities, which have historically relied on migration to offset an ageing population and keep services running. We will develop a **Rural Visa Pilot proposal**, to support people to move to and work in our rural communities, submitting a proposal to the UK Government in 2022. We will press on with our **Population Programme** and work with partners to determine the right interventions to support our ageing population, encourage inward migration, and increase population growth in rural areas in particular.

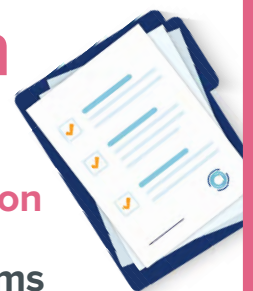
Noting the heart-breaking scenes playing out daily, we will do all we can to support the resettlement of refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere, enabling people to integrate and rebuild their lives in our communities. We will continue to press the UK Government to give Scotland the powers we need to chart our own course on migration, and

urge them to introduce a fair and humane asylum and refugee system. Where our fair and inclusive approach is undermined by reserved asylum and immigration policy we will raise issues with the UK Government and push for positive change which respects people's dignity and rights. We will refresh and expand our **New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy**, and award £2.8 million in EU funding to new projects to spread good practices and support innovation under the outcomes and objectives of the Strategy. **This year we will provide an additional £500,000 to support local authorities to accommodate more unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in Scotland.** Next summer we will also launch Scotland's new Independent Child Trafficking Guardians service to provide ongoing practical help and support to refugee children and young people, including victims of trafficking, who arrive in Scotland alone. And, starting in Glasgow, we will create the first **Scottish Cities of Refuge**: safe spaces where artists and writers at risk from across the globe can come to live and work without fear of persecution.

We will refresh and expand our

## New Scots Integration Strategy,

and award **£2.8 million** to fund new projects which support the aims and objectives of the Strategy.



While the Scottish Government does not have powers to change UK-wide rules on No Recourse to Public Funds, we are clear that no-one should be made destitute because of their immigration status. We will do everything in our power to improve support for people at risk of destitution, **delivering on our Ending Destitution Together strategy.**



Our policies and actions abroad will be consistent with our focus on fairness and inclusion at home. We will create a new global affairs framework this year to guide Scotland's international engagement, grounded in a values-based approach, and a feminist approach to foreign policy. We will support the Global South with their own recovery and, from April 2022, **start to increase the International Development Fund from £10 million to £15 million**, maintaining that increase in line with inflation throughout this Parliament. Building on our recent donations of oxygen concentrators and ventilators to African partner countries, we will support their COVID-19 responses this year through additional supplies of medical equipment and products, including vital PPE through the NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Programme. We will sustain our £1 million per year Humanitarian Emergency Fund, including providing support in 2021 for the crisis in Afghanistan. We will also support **a new £500,000 International Development Women and Girls Empowerment Fund**, funding local organisations in partner countries to ensure women and girls are safe, equal and respected. We will also use our **Residential Fellowship Programme** to train women in conflict zones to play a full part in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, expanding this to include training in mitigating the effects of climate change, with a new cohort of Climate Fellows announced in November.

Scotland will continue to act as a good global citizen by supporting international order and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will bring forward a **Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill**, putting duties on public bodies and local government to take account of the impact of their decisions on sustainable development, in Scotland and internationally. To support an internationally sustainable recovery, we will reconstitute our **Ministerial Working Group on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development**. We will also **reconstitute a new Global South Programme Panel** to lend expertise to our international development work, and ensure voices from the Global South continue to be heard in Scotland. And we will review approaches to future policy and economic engagement with a view to enhancing Scotland's global reach and presence.



**By the end of 2022 we will establish a Peace Institute**, with a focus on human rights, that enables us to develop further our understanding of conflict resolution and peace. We will continue to argue for **nuclear disarmament**, mindful of the risks that Scotland faces as a result of housing the UK's nuclear deterrent.

At a time of increasing insularity, Scotland's strength will remain in its internationalism. We will continue to work with our friends and partners in Europe and beyond to reaffirm diplomatic ties, improve our global networks, enhance international communications activity, and unlock new economic and trading opportunities. We will **strengthen our base in Brussels**, and next year **open a Scottish Government Office in Copenhagen**, to increase Scotland's economic and cultural visibility in the Nordic regions. Over the lifetime of this Parliament, we will also open an office in Warsaw, as part of our continued commitment to enhancing our external reach and voice. And we will **support the establishment of a Scottish Council for Global Affairs** – a new think tank which will coordinate Scottish expertise and research on global issues and their impact on Scotland.



# Scotland's Future



In 1997, the Scottish electorate voted by an overwhelming majority to establish the Scottish Parliament. Devolution has brought a wide range of economic, social and political benefits to Scotland. It has enabled new and innovative approaches to be taken to tackle long-standing issues including on public health, supporting thriving communities, and conserving the natural environment for future generations.

That journey is not over. There remain deep-rooted challenges in our society and economy, as well as new emerging issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and EU exit.

However, the ability of the Scottish Parliament to tackle those challenges and deliver a fairer Scotland is coming under increasing threat. Successive UK Governments, in particular since the EU referendum, have not only undermined the devolution settlement but are now actively re-writing it without the consent of the people of Scotland.

Devolution, by its very nature, has always been dependent on the restraint and goodwill of the UK Government of the day, but EU exit has triggered an assault on devolution not previously seen. In March 2021 the Scottish Government set out the various ways in which the UK Government is undermining devolution in a detailed paper: [After Brexit: the UK Internal Market Act and devolution](#).

The Scottish Government will do all we can to keep Scotland safe, and protect both devolution and our democratic rights. We were told that this is an equal partnership. But there is no evidence that Westminster wants an equal partnership – it wants to be in control.

Faced with a UK Government determined to centralise power in Westminster there is little the Scottish Parliament can do to stop them. This is just one reason why people in Scotland should have the right to decide their own future.

When this Government was recently returned for an historic fourth term, the people of Scotland gave a clear mandate for them to have a choice over their future once the COVID-19 crisis has passed.

The Scottish Government will work to ensure that a legitimate and constitutional referendum can be held within this Parliament, and if the Covid crisis is over, within the first half of this Parliament.

It must be up to the people of Scotland – not a Westminster government they didn't vote for – to decide how Scotland is governed. Before this referendum the people of Scotland will have the information they need to make an informed choice about their future and, therefore, the Scottish Government will start work on a detailed prospectus for an independent Scotland.

The pandemic has shone a light on the continued inequalities in our society, and the bold and transformational change required to secure a brighter future. The Scottish Government will use the full powers available to secure that future – but we have also seen the limitations of the current settlement. If the people of Scotland choose independence, the full range of powers of an independent country would allow Scotland to put in place a transformational recovery from the pandemic, one which will lead to a fairer and more sustainable and prosperous nation.

And Scotland will be able to work with our friends in the rest of the UK, and Europe, in a genuine partnership of equals.



# Fiscal Context



While the current economic situation gives reason for cautious optimism, Scotland's fiscal outlook remains uncertain over the period of this Programme for Government. The pandemic has shown, and continues to show, that we need strong public, private and third sectors to meet the economic and health challenges of this crisis. The Scottish Government will continue to act responsibly in its management of public finances, building on and updating the approach set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. However, as Scotland recovers, we will also take the next steps in the necessary transformation of our economy and public services required by the pressures of Brexit, the climate emergency and tackling the inequalities that the pandemic has so cruelly amplified in our societies.

Our public services must be underpinned by appropriate and stable funding so that fiscally sustainable decisions can be made over the medium to long term. This Programme for Government (PfG) demonstrates that the Scottish Government has a clear reform agenda for this Parliament, but the fiscal foundations for this agenda remain unsteady. The UK Government's COVID-19 funding guarantee was welcome, but looking ahead the basic uncertainty around the Scottish funding position remains. We do not know what the upcoming UK Spending Review means for us, and we have called repeatedly on the UK Government to maintain fiscal support and not return to the austerity of the past.

Among the negative side-effects of Brexit are the extensive spending powers conferred on the UK Government through the UK Internal Market Act. Consequently, the UK Government has started spending directly in Scotland in areas of devolved competence, without consultation and often without any prior notice. We therefore find ourselves in a situation where the UK Government cuts across Scottish policies and, apart from undermining devolution, uncoordinated UK Government policy decisions may actually waste valuable public funds. Despite the unconstructive stance of the UK Government, we are continuing to engage to get better results for the people of Scotland.

The events of the last eighteen months have further demonstrated that the Fiscal Framework agreed in 2016 is not fit for purpose. We have had to manage unprecedented volatility and the limits on borrowing and the Scotland Reserve proved to be overly restrictive. There is emerging consensus in Scotland around the shortcomings of the Fiscal Framework. Together with the UK Government, we are set to review the Fiscal Framework in 2022. We will use that review to push for a substantial increase in the fiscal power of the Scottish Parliament, including:

- Removal of the caps on capital borrowing, which constrain our ability to invest in the economy and public services, to be replaced by a prudential borrowing scheme – the same power local authorities already enjoy.
- Removal of the restriction on resource borrowing to fund day-to-day costs, an increase in the borrowing cap for forecast errors to £600 million, and an increase in the Scotland Reserve drawdown to £700 million per year.
- Strengthening of Scotland's tax powers with the devolution of VAT, and full powers over Income Tax and National Insurance contributions.

While there are substantial limits to our fiscal autonomy, we will use our devolved tax powers to best effect. Our commitment to freeze Income Tax rates and increase thresholds by no more than inflation for the duration of this Parliament will provide individuals and businesses the certainty and stability they need as we recover. We will protect and grow the tax base through our economic policies in pursuit of stable growth, reflecting our commitment to fiscal sustainability and to generate revenues to fund our public services and strengthen our economy.

We have published a draft Framework for Tax for consultation, setting out how we use the tax powers we have to deliver public services and support an economy that works for everyone in Scotland – including the principles and strategic objectives that underpin our approach, and our programme of work for this Parliament.



The positive proposals set out in this Programme for Government demonstrate the value of making decisions close to the people they impact. The pace of implementation will, however, be determined by available resources, especially those made available through the UK Spending Review. The Scottish Budget 2022-23 and Scottish Spending Review will set out the proposals within spending trajectories that will target and prioritise resources so that we maximise the value we get from every public pound. This will involve a clear focus on the contribution that public spending makes to the commitments set out in this Programme for Government, our statutory targets and the National Outcomes. Through all of our actions we will continue to set Scotland's public finances on a sustainable course, and express our commitment to making the recovery from the pandemic into an opportunity for economic, environmental and social transformation.

# The Legislative Programme 2021-22



The Scottish Government's legislative programme will deliver some key elements of the Programme for Government.

Three Bills have already been introduced to the Scottish Parliament following the election. The Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Act extends certain provisions of the two Scottish Coronavirus Acts beyond September 2021 which are considered necessary to deal with the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and to expire provisions no longer considered to be necessary. The Carer's Allowance Supplement (Scotland) Bill provides for a doubling of the scheduled Carers' Allowance Supplement in December 2021, and allow for future increases of the Supplement to be made through regulations. The Transvaginal Mesh Removal (Cost Reimbursement) (Scotland) Bill will enable the Scottish Ministers to make a scheme to make payments to reimburse persons who have entered into arrangements privately and have paid to have transvaginal mesh removed from their body.

The Scottish Government intends to introduce a further 12 Bills over the course of the parliamentary year. This includes the National Care Services Bill which will oversee the delivery of care, improved standards, ensure enhanced pay and provide better support for unpaid carers. Legislation will be brought forward to reform how remand is used and how release mechanisms work for certain prisoners in a Bail and Release from Custody Bill. A Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Bill will be introduced to ensure fireworks are used safely and appropriately while also addressing the misuse of pyrotechnics. The Miners' Strike Pardon Bill will provide a pardon to miners convicted of certain offences relating to the miners' strike of 1984-85. The Scottish Government will also bring forward the Fox Control Bill, Gender Recognition Reform Bill, Good Food Nation Bill and Moveable Transactions Bill which were temporarily paused in the last parliamentary session as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government is consulting on what further legislation is needed to support recovery from the pandemic and will bring forward a COVID Recovery Bill in the first year of Parliament to deliver on aspects of that.

## Bill Summaries

### Bills for Introduction

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#### Annual Budget (No.1) Bill

The annual Budget Bill provides parliamentary approval for the Scottish Government's spending plans, allocates resources to strategic objectives and supports progress towards the vision of a more successful country through increasing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and improving wellbeing.

#### Bail and Release from Custody Bill

To reform how decisions are made in relation to the use of bail and remand and adjust certain release arrangements for individuals in custody. In relation to bail and remand reforms, the intention is to refocus how custody is used, especially for those who pose little or no risk to public safety. The Bill will also include reforms to support release arrangements, with a focus on enabling reintegration into the community.

#### Coronavirus (Compensation for Self-isolation) Bill

To maintain the modification of the duty on Health Boards to compensate people who are asked by the health board to voluntarily quarantine, or limit their movements or activities for COVID-19 related reasons. The provisions that require compensation to be paid in such circumstances were not designed for an emergency pandemic scenario on the scale of COVID-19 and alternative financial support has been put in place for people who self-isolate.

#### COVID Recovery Bill

To make public health, public services and justice system reforms that support recovery, build resilience against future public health threats and maintain tangible benefits of modernisations and practices adopted during the pandemic.

#### Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Bill

To introduce changes to how fireworks can be used and sold in Scotland, and to address the misuse of pyrotechnics. The purpose of the Bill is to implement the recommendations made by the independent Firework Review Group; and to implement new provisions on carrying a pyrotechnic device in a public place without reasonable excuse or lawful authority and associated police stop and search powers.

#### Fox Control Bill

To strengthen the law relating to the use of dogs to hunt and flush foxes and other wild mammals. It will implement the majority of the recommendations of the independent report on the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 (the 'Bonomy review') and introduce further measures such as preventing trail hunting.

#### Gender Recognition Bill

The Bill will reform the Gender Recognition Act 2004 to provide a more streamlined process for trans men and women applying for legal gender recognition. Applications would be made to the Registrar General for Scotland instead of the Gender Recognition Panel, a UK tribunal. Applicants would make a statutory declaration that they have lived in the acquired gender for a minimum of 3 months before applying and that they intend to live permanently in their acquired gender. An application could then be determined by the Registrar General after a 3 month reflection period.

#### Good Food Nation Bill

The Bill will introduce a statutory requirement for the Scottish Ministers and specified public authorities to publish statements setting out the main outcomes they want to achieve in relation to food-related issues, the policies needed to do this and the indicators or other measures required to assess progress. This will underpin the work we are carrying out as part of the Good Food Nation programme of measures.



**Miners' Strike Pardon Bill**

The Bill makes legislative provision for the granting of a collective pardon to miners convicted of certain offences relating to the miners' strike of 1984-85.

**Moveable Transactions Bill**

To implement a Scottish Law Commission Report on Moveable Transactions. The Bill would make various types of commercial transactions more efficient, less expensive and less complicated, leading to greater access to finance for businesses in Scotland. In addition to the introduction of a Moveable Transactions Bill in the first year of the Parliament, the Government is also giving consideration to a longer-term programme of implementation of Scottish Law Commission Reports to be introduced during this Parliament, such as Trusts, Judicial Factors, Contract law, Title Conditions, Cohabitation and Damages for Personal Injury.

**National Care Service Bill**

Following the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, the Bill will make the Scottish Ministers accountable for social care. A National Care Service will oversee local delivery of community health and social care, ensuring consistent and high standards and embedding the principles of fair work for care workers. The Bill will also reform access to care and support and provide better support for unpaid carers.

**Non-Domestic Rates COVID-19 Appeals Bill**

The Bill will prevent the inappropriate use of material change of circumstances provisions in the non-domestic rates legislation in relation to COVID-19, or COVID-19 restrictions. Ruling out COVID-19 appeals will ensure that the limited public resources that are available are efficiently targeted to support the most affected businesses and sectors in the recovery period.

**Bills continuing their Parliamentary Scrutiny**

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**Carer's Allowance Supplement Bill**

To provide for a doubling of the scheduled Carers' Allowance Supplement in December 2021, and allow for future increases of the Supplement to be made through regulations.

**Transvaginal Mesh Removal (Cost Reimbursement) (Scotland) Bill**

A Bill to give power to the Scottish Ministers to make a scheme to make payments to reimburse persons who have entered into arrangements privately and have paid to have transvaginal mesh removed from their body, in relation to the costs of removal surgery and also reasonable connected expenses.



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ISBN: 978-1-80201-176-0

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Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS904706 (09/21)