

The **Scottish Labour** Party Manifesto 2011



Fighting for
what really matters

Scottish  Labour
www.scottishlabour.org.uk

Fighting for what really matters

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Fighting for what really matters



“Now that the Tories are back we need a Government in Scotland that will fight for what really matters.”

We pursue growth, more jobs and more businesses, for a reason. We do so because work, labour itself, is the best chance of a better life for all, and work remains the only real route out of poverty. The chance of a good life should be our birthright rather than an accident of our birth. Poverty envelops too many too early and remains too common and too persistent to be tolerated in a country that dreams of a better future.

In the 1980s I taught in a secondary school in Edinburgh. I saw teenagers lose their future and their hopes to the spectre of unemployment and to a government that did not care. That is why I am standing to be First Minister of Scotland, so that this Tory government cannot repeat the mistakes of yesterday and blight all of our tomorrows. The difference today is our own Scottish Parliament. We can take a different path.

The great achievements of our past can be an inspiration for our future. We can create powerful new industries driving towards a green economy




that creates the jobs we need to generate prosperity for all. I make no apologies for the scale of my ambition for Scotland. It is the job of leaders to look to the horizon. My choices will be set by these priorities: creating jobs for all and leaving nobody behind.

The vision that guides me is a Scotland of full employment; a more equal Scotland, with the freedom to give full expression to who we feel we are. This is

how we begin - ending youth unemployment by investing in education and skills, in apprenticeships and jobs. The costs of inaction are far greater than the sum of these ambitions.

I will balance the Scottish budget, but I refuse to balance it on the back of working people. We will drive efficiency, reform our public services and cut the cost of governing, but we will do it to make Scotland fairer. Our choices will be different. We can only do this if we focus relentlessly on what matters and make the tough choices that deliver change. No more distractions, no more constitutional wrangling. I'll fight

for what really matters. That's what Labour exists to do. This is our programme for Scotland. It talks to the concerns of the people of Scotland: jobs, safer streets, better schools, our NHS, our environment. It is the product of the widest and deepest consultation ever undertaken by a political party in this country. Give Labour your trust. We will fight for what really matters. And that is you, your family and your future.



Iain Gray

Scottish Labour Leader





"I was a full time mum for four years after my son Dylan was born but when he was at nursery I decided it was time to get back to work. "I'd considered studying to be a teacher, but after careful consideration I decided it would be best to get on-the-job training. I live near the dockyard in Rosyth and I always thought it would be an exciting environment to work in. When I got taken on as an electrical fitter by Babcock I was over the moon. Staff have been really helpful

and you're never thrown in at the deep end.

"My seven year old son Dylan is so proud of me and he tells all his friends that his mummy builds ships. I know I'm creating a better future for the two of us.

"Being an apprentice has been a turning point in my life. With so many people now unemployed, apprenticeships are more important than ever. It's an opportunity to get working and change your life for the better."



Chapter One

Building a More Prosperous Scotland

Elizabeth McEwan from Rosyth has been working as a dockyard apprentice for almost eighteen months. The 25 year old mother says it's given her and her son better prospects for the future.

Labour's Vision

“ We often hear that the UK faces one of the worst economic challenges since the Second World War. Yet, we must remember that Labour seized on the opportunity of 1945 to create work for hundreds of thousands, not throw our workers on the dole. There is an important lesson to be learnt from this example. In every crisis, there is an opportunity to rebuild and a new hope for the future.

“ I promise that a Scottish Labour government will not stand back as the Tories repeat the mistakes of the 1980s. Even from opposition and in tough economic times, Scottish Labour has fought tooth and nail to secure new apprenticeships for the young people of Scotland.

“ In a time of ideological cuts that have shown disregard for the weakest in our society, Scottish Labour is determined to show that there is always an alternative. Youth unemployment has soared. Thousands face a future without the hope, opportunity or self-respect that work can bring. We will show that there is always another choice.

“ Scottish Labour's priority will be to rebuild our economy, so that it is fairer, greener and buoyant with opportunity. We will make the Scottish Parliament a place of action, to stand up for young people and set out a new agenda. With the Green New Deal, the Scottish Future Jobs Fund and the apprenticeship guarantee, we will put job creation front and centre of all we do.

“ Our Scottish Labour politics were forged from a deep belief in solidarity, when times were hard for ordinary people. We remain on their side. As we work to build the prosperity of our country and get Scotland moving again, we will not rest until we are sure that we are taking every Scot with us.”

Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader

Our promises to Scotland

- 10,000 work placements for unemployed young people through the Scottish Future Jobs Fund
- A new Scottish Living Wage of at least £7.15 an hour, beginning in the public sector
- A guaranteed modern apprenticeship for every suitably qualified young person who wants one
- A doubling in the value of exports over the next decade
- Robust efficiency savings, including scrapping the Council of Economic Advisors and the Scottish Futures Trust

“The FSB in Scotland has been long been arguing that more needs to be done to enable small businesses to create the jobs the country needs. By cutting out the middleman, the Scottish Future Jobs Fund could not only boost the economy but make a real dent in Scotland’s level of unemployment.”

Colin Borland,

Federation of Small Businesses

Investing in people

Scottish Labour is determined to ensure that jobs are the number one priority of the Scottish Government. We want every worker properly trained, well respected and properly paid and valued for the contribution they make.

It is our conviction that every youngster who finds themselves unemployed and facing an empty future is a human symbol of our nation’s wasted potential. It is a step back for the whole of Scotland. We are clear that there is a better future for our country and that is why Scottish Labour will deliver the young person’s guarantee – a place in education, training, volunteering or work for every 16-18 year old in Scotland.

We will deliver this guarantee by creating 10,000 work placements through a new Scottish Future Jobs Fund - real jobs and training for young people and others who have been unemployed for over six months, with upfront, flexible funding for businesses to create those jobs. We want to ensure that some of these places are targeted at those who are currently most distant from the labour market and face challenging barriers of access. We will also provide government funding to restart the national volunteering scheme

ProjectScotland.

Another new guarantee will offer a modern apprenticeship to every suitably qualified 16-18 year old who wants one from 2013 onwards. To ensure success for this scheme, we will consider how best to deliver more flexible government support to businesses that are training apprentices, including encouraging schemes in key skill shortage areas and exploring how small businesses can form partnerships to 'pool' apprentices as workloads fluctuate, to share costs.

Scottish Labour will also reshape Skills Development Scotland, making it a one stop shop that employers and employees can go to for information on education, skills and training. We will reform the careers advisory service so that it accurately presents the employment opportunities that are available to young people. Careers advisors need to be alerted to Scotland's future needs, so that young people are made aware of the skills and qualifications that will be most in demand when they plan to enter the job market. The careers service must identify the individual needs and attributes of our young people and mentor and support them into meaningful employment.

A Fairer Scotland

The first job of Scottish Labour – especially during times of economic turbulence – is to be on the side of working families. That is why we are committed to introducing a new Scottish Living Wage of at least £7.15 an hour, starting with those working in the public sector. We will establish a Living Wage Unit to monitor its implementation and advise the Scottish Government on annual increases in the rate. We have an ambition to roll this policy out to other sectors and will use procurement contracts to ensure that the private and third sectors are living wage employers too. Scottish Labour will also consult on New Year's Day working.

We know that in these difficult times, many people are concerned about the income gap between those at the very top and those at the lower end of the scale. Introducing the Scottish Living Wage is one step forward in addressing these concerns. But we will also seek to rein in bonuses and reduce high earner pay in the public sector, starting with a five per cent reduction in all ministerial salaries under a Scottish Labour government.

Building prosperity for all

Growing Scotland's economy and creating jobs will be Scottish Labour's first priority. That is why we will task every Cabinet Minister in Scotland with ensuring that economic growth and jobs are at the centre of their ambitions for government and pilot economic memorandums, which will analyse the impact of legislation on Scotland's economic growth.

Scottish Labour will create an Economic Cabinet at the heart of government, drawing on business, trade union and third sector experience to ensure the prioritisation of jobs and growth. We will scrap the Council of Economic Advisors, which has had little impact on policy-making.

Scottish Labour believes that Scotland needs investment and a clear plan for growth. Our future prosperity is not something to be left to chance. We need to seize the opportunities of the new green economy and will therefore prioritise the creation of green jobs in renewable technologies – aiming for up to 60,000 by 2015 – by making the planning system more efficient and seeking to develop export opportunities. We will also work to attract at least £1.5 billion of

investment from the Green Investment Bank and campaign to ensure the bank is headquartered in Scotland.

Scottish Labour will develop an industrial policy – including a manufacturing strategy – designed to improve economic performance and unlock competitive potential.

We will set a target of doubling the value of exports over the next decade, with a particular focus on high value manufacturing, including defence, aerospace and renewable energy. To achieve this ambitious aim, we will ask Scottish Development International (SDI) to produce new ways of promoting Scotland to attract foreign investment and to work with enterprise agencies in promoting export opportunities for Scottish companies. We will also ask SDI to work with the Scottish Council for Development and Industry and Scottish Chambers International to create a new network of Scottish Trade Centres in emerging markets, using the expertise of the Scottish exporters already there to support the development of new exporters.

Not only have Scottish discoveries, fresh ideas and innovation – from the telephone, to Dolly the Sheep – aided our nation's

historic success, they will be the drivers of our economic future. We need to keep Scotland at the forefront of technology and innovation. Scottish Labour will therefore ask every Scottish Government department to develop innovative and small business procurement plans, which will reward innovation by ensuring new businesses are able to take advantage of public contracts. We will set a new target so that five per cent of each department's procurement budget is set aside for innovation.

We will ensure that Scottish Water is kept in public ownership, enhancing powers so that it can fulfil its renewable energy potential and use its assets more effectively.

We will also drive down the government's spending on consultants.

Supporting business

Scottish Labour believes that the best way to create economic growth is through a strong partnership between business, industry and government. We will do all we can to be supportive of the needs of business, and as a first step, will guarantee that finance legislation and regulation will be subject to an impact assessment, which will allow the Scottish Government

to understand the impact of measures on business. Business legislation and regulation will also have sunset clauses, so that the need for regulation is regularly reviewed.

We know that access to affordable finance is a worry for Scottish businesses, particularly small businesses. We will look to the Scottish Investment Bank to meet this challenge, ensuring that it is able to offer assistance to companies of any size and will also consider other co-investment models to meet the demands of business. We will task Business Gateway and the enterprise agencies with promoting these models to businesses.

We know that businesses want the recent reforms to Scottish Enterprise to bed in and we will not seek to fundamentally reform it at this stage. However, we will look at realigning the priorities of Scottish Enterprise to encompass a broader range of companies, as a means of addressing the gap that currently exists for those that are beyond the Business Gateway, but have not reached the growth rates needed to qualify for Scottish Enterprise assistance. We will also retain Highlands and Islands Enterprise as a separate entity and task it with developing aims that best meet the

“The success of my business depends on the skills and talent of my employees and I welcome Labour’s Modern Apprenticeship guarantee. Not only will this pledge be a step change in increasing the skills pool for businesses today, but investing in the skills of our young people is one of the most important things we can do to boost the economy of tomorrow.”

Brian Gilda

*Chairman and Managing Director,
Peoples Ford*

needs of the businesses and communities it serves. Our economic agencies should work closely with community regeneration bodies to maximise their impact.

We will work with local government to ensure that the level of service provided by Business Gateway is of a consistently high quality throughout Scotland. Using the Business Gateway, we will also establish a new Plus One scheme for small businesses who want to take on their first employee, providing support with personnel, payroll and legal issues. Scottish Labour will also continue the Small Business Bonus Scheme, with a focus on incentivising and rewarding small businesses that invest in training and skills, employment, capital investment and innovation.

Energy

Scottish Labour will encourage future prosperity by ensuring Scotland is a net exporter of energy and will work to improve grid connections between Scotland and the rest of the UK and Europe to capitalise on this opportunity. We will set up Energy Scotland to drive forward Scotland as a world leader in the low carbon sector.

Scottish Labour supports the ambitious

target of ensuring that 80 per cent of our energy comes from renewables by 2020 and is committed to a Green New Deal, which will provide renewable electricity generation opportunities to at least 10,000 homes - creating jobs, traineeships and new business for local firms. We will encourage the development of marine technology by doubling the value of the Saltire prize to £20 million. Any application for consent to new nuclear capacity will be considered on its merits, in terms of safety, environmental impact, the local community and other planning considerations.

We will not consent to new, non-replacement fossil fuel power stations unless they can demonstrate effective carbon capture and storage technology from the outset. We will also encourage operators of conventional power stations to develop models to minimise heat waste.

Tourism

Tourism is both a cornerstone of Scotland's economy and a huge opportunity for growth and development in Scotland's future. We must not allow tough economic times to halt the pace of progress.

Scottish Labour will therefore boost the

voice of the tourism industry. To do this, we will reduce the duplication between Scottish Enterprise and Visit Scotland, making Visit Scotland the lead organisation on tourism development. We also need to ensure the tourism sector uses the resources that are available to it to best effect and this will include improving the functionality of the visitscotland.com website, so that it can take bookings.

Many visitors to Scotland come for big events, like the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, but do not always take advantage of the opportunities to see more of Scotland whilst they are here. That is why VisitScotland and EventScotland will be tasked with delivering a 'See More of Scotland' campaign for event visitors.

To encourage growth in the sector, we will ensure that our cultural strategies – particularly those designed to promote Scotland's galleries and museums – are fully integrated into transport and tourism strategies.

Supporting social enterprise and co-operative ownership

We believe that co-operative and social enterprise models play a vital role in the

“Dialogue between industry and government is absolutely vital to building a strong recovery in Scotland, that is why the establishment of an economic cabinet is a first class initiative.”

Harry Donaldson

Regional Secretary, GMB Scotland

stewardship of our economy, caring for people and communities by creating jobs and sustainable growth. Scottish Labour will therefore consult on proposals to boost the role of community interest companies, support co-operatives within the mainstream economy and boost democracy in the workplace. We will commit to a review of Co-operative Development Scotland, which will consider whether it should be an agency in its own right and re-examine how it engages with the entire co-operative sector.

Employee ownership could also offer an imaginative and attractive alternative to workers who face their workplaces being sold or closed. Scottish Labour will therefore consider how the Scottish Investment Bank will support the work of Co-operative Development Scotland, including support for new co-operative business start-ups and widening its remit to cover housing. We will also ensure Scotland plays a full role in the United Nations' International Year of Co-operation in 2012, by increasing the number of co-operative start-ups.

Scottish Labour will investigate the option of creating a loan guarantee scheme for social enterprises as a means of making

the best use of government funding and explore the idea of local communities generating income from recycling locally produced waste. Not only will this reduce landfill, but profits will be reinvested in communities.

A stronger Scottish Parliament

Given the economic uncertainty of recent times, Scottish Labour believes the time is now right for the Scottish Parliament to shoulder greater accountability for its spending priorities and we will continue to support the provisions to achieve this in the Scotland Bill.

We support devolving more responsibilities to the Scottish Parliament, including capital borrowing powers and new tax powers, such as stamp duty on property and landfill tax. We also support responsibility for setting the drink-drive limit and the speed limit in Scotland being devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Taxation

We want Scotland to be a competitive location in which to do business. To create an environment in which Scottish businesses can prosper, we will maintain

parity with the English non-domestic poundage rate. We will not increase the income tax rate above that of the rest of the UK in the course of the next parliament. We will seek to improve the current system of non-domestic rates and will review the reliefs that are available. We will also review the frequency of non-domestic property revaluations, pledging that every revaluation will be accompanied by a transitional relief scheme.

Procurement

Scottish Labour is committed to delivering fairer, greener and more ethical procurement. The impending closure of Edinburgh's Blindcraft factory is one of the biggest disappointments of the past four years, ending 218 years of supported employment for disabled workers. We want to do all we can to turn this situation around and will deliver government procurement that makes effective use of community benefit clauses and Article 19, and gives due weight to good working practices, employability approaches, local employment and the living wage. We will strengthen the current section 52 provisions and other procurement regulations to minimise staff transfers and

ensure that good employment practice is an essential element of procurement decisions.

However, in meeting these challenges, we also believe that procurement processes need to be smarter, efficient and more strategic. We want to take active steps to encourage new supply chains and to ensure that social enterprises, the third sector and Scottish businesses of all sizes are able to compete for procurement contracts, overcoming any potential skills and technology deficits that may be acting as barriers to success. We will reduce the number of procurement portals, making them easier and less time consuming for businesses to access, and will create a pipeline of more visible bidding and tendering opportunities, which will be advertised through the Public Contracts Scotland procurement portal.

We will look to the experience of Wales and Northern Ireland to see what steps can be taken to ensure that small and local businesses have the opportunity to take advantage of government contracts. Scottish Labour will commit to Scottish Government departments paying 80 per cent of supplier invoices within five days, rather than the current ten days

– introducing spot checks to encourage implementation - and will use appropriate measures to encourage other businesses to shorten payment times to contractors.

Getting Scotland moving

Scottish Labour will not close-off any funding mechanism as we work towards delivering the world-class infrastructure that our businesses and economy rely on for competitiveness and connectivity. We know that high speed broadband will be as important for economic growth in the future as good roads and railways. We will appoint a Digital Champion and bring forward a strategy to improve the quality and coverage of broadband, bringing pressure on the UK Government to deliver its commitment to roll out broadband access to all British homes by 2015.

Scottish Labour will begin to tackle the maintenance backlog on Scotland's roads, ensuring that those with statutory entitlements to dig up Scotland's roads are required to repair the surface timeously and to acceptable standards. We are also committed to finding finance to complete the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, the M8 Baillieston to Newhouse upgrade, the M74 Raith Interchange, and to deliver

improvements to the M8, M73 and M74.

We also aim to prepare a programme of continuous improvements to the A82, A1, A9, A77, A75, A95 and A96.

We will deliver the new Forth Replacement Crossing. This is a vital project to safeguard an essential link in the country's transport network and will be the largest infrastructure project in a generation. We will deliver on our commitment to empower the public to choose the name of the new bridge.

The current economic climate means that the decision to increase VAT has raised the price of petrol at the pump by nearly three pence per litre, punishing motorists and hitting rural communities particularly hard. We believe these increases are unfair and we will continue to push the UK Government to reverse them.

We will be advocates of high-speed rail links to London and Europe and will seek to future-proof Scotland's network to ensure this is a possibility. Our ambition is to see direct services from Scotland to Paris and Brussels. Scottish Labour will take forward the Edinburgh/Glasgow Rail Improvement Project (EGIP), including seeking to improve journey times between Glasgow and Edinburgh to under 40 minutes, taking

“I am delighted to see that Scottish Labour has made job creation their number one priority and are committed to working with Scottish businesses to deliver economic growth.”

Alison Taylor

Director, GVA,

a leading UK Property Advisor

forward Crossrail and delivering more commuting opportunities from Ayrshire and Renfrewshire, and from rural Lanarkshire to Edinburgh and Glasgow. We will consider all options for the Scotrail franchise, including public and not for profit models and will work to deliver free Wi-Fi and 3G mobile phone coverage as part of the next contract. We will reinstate plans for the Glasgow Airport Rail Link.

We will support the modernisation of Glasgow's subway and will campaign to ensure that any changes to the East Coast Main Line do not disadvantage Lanarkshire – Edinburgh commuters. We will seek to progress the expansion of through-ticketing in Scotland.

Scottish Labour will set up an Air Route Marketing Fund to support new, direct air routes to Scotland - particularly from the emerging markets - during their first two years of operation. We will also retain the Air Discount Scheme, which has proved invaluable for our island communities.

Everybody benefits from lower levels of congestion and pollution when we take heavy lorries off the road and move freight onto the railways. Scottish Labour will support the Freight Facilities Grant to encourage the transfer of freight from

road to rail. We will also look at what can be done to make better use of inland waterways and improve links to ports, such as Grangemouth.

Scottish Labour will make the Road Equivalent Tariff pilot permanent in the Western Isles and will widen coverage to ferry services to the Clyde and the Argyll isles. We will work with the current ferry operator, with an ambition to reinstate a passenger service between Rosyth and Zeebrugge and ensure that all other options for a new service are maximised.

Scottish Labour will make certain our communities are served by better bus services through strengthening regulation. We will improve the Green Bus Fund to help local authorities and transport providers purchase greener, hybrid buses, securing highly skilled jobs and improving the air quality in our towns and cities. The Fund should also be directed to ensure the current bus fleet meets a higher environmental grade.

We believe that the Scottish Government must take a lead in making the switch to greener modes of transport. Scottish Labour will phase out diesel and petrol cars for government use, including ministerial cars, and replace them with greener hybrid

or electric vehicles. We also need to invest in new infrastructure for electric vehicles, with an ambitious target for 10,000 electric charging points by 2015.

Scottish Labour is also determined to see walking and cycling become a more convenient, attractive and realistic choice for many short journeys and will retain the target of ensuring that 10 per cent of trips be made by bike by 2020. To achieve this, we will ensure that active travel receives a higher proportion of the overall transport budget and promote the Cycle Friendly Employer Award Scheme, which recognises workplaces that put in place measures to create a culture of cycling. Where possible, Scottish Labour will work with partners to encourage bicycle banks – like those developed in London – and tube-style bike maps, to promote the growth of cycling in our towns and cities.

"There aren't enough opportunities for young teachers anymore. I am desperate to work as a teacher at home but it just doesn't seem possible at the moment.

"It is so frustrating sitting around for days on end waiting for the phone to ring with offers of work. The clock was ticking for me to complete my probationary period and I didn't want to fail.

"I already knew two people who had gone abroad to teach and another

friend had given up altogether. It is such a huge waste of talent and I don't want to get left on the scrapheap.

"I studied for four years to become a teacher and I don't want my time at university to be a complete waste. I love being a teacher and I really hope that one day I will be able to teach in a primary school in Scotland - until then I will probably have to stay in Korea until the situation improves."

A hand is visible on the left side of the page, pointing towards a large number '2' on a light-colored background. The background also features other large numbers, including a '7' and a '3', and some horizontal lines, suggesting a digital or educational interface.

Chapter Two

A Scotland of Opportunity

26 year old Paul Duffy from Glasgow has been forced to move to South Korea to fulfil his dream of becoming a teacher because he couldn't find work in Scotland. To finish his probationary period, Paul had to complete 270 days in primary schools but he became concerned that he wouldn't meet this target.

Labour's Vision

“Education changes lives and changes the world. It is the tool by which our children can live lives that their grandparents couldn't even dream of.

“Scotland's greatest asset is the untapped potential of our people. It is the key to our economic future. For Scotland to prosper in tough times, our future workers must be the best educated and trained in the world and investing today in skills, learning and knowledge will be the foundation on which we build a stronger tomorrow. The future of Scotland lies in the hands of our young people and so Scottish Labour will be bold in developing their skills and their talent.

“Scottish Labour is determined to make Scotland's education system the envy of the world again, restoring pride and conviction in our classrooms. It is unacceptable that 13,000 children leave school functionally illiterate. We will deliver excellence and opportunity for every child, raising standards, prioritising literacy and numeracy and taking tough action on indiscipline. We will invest in the teachers we need to make this vision a reality.

“From the most vulnerable young people as they take their first steps in education, to the probationary teachers struggling to get a job at the other side of the journey, Scottish Labour will ensure nobody is left behind by our education system as we work to get Scotland moving again.”

Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader

Our promises to Scotland

- New jobs and specialised training for up to 1000 teachers, to drive up standards in literacy and numeracy across Scotland
- We will consult on an Early Years Bill, to deliver a common package of support measures prior to birth and until the age of three
- Make tackling bullying and indiscipline a priority in every Scottish school
- No up-front or back-end tuition fees for Scottish students
- Invest in early education and targeted early intervention, to reduce the need for spending on more expensive intervention later on

“As a member of the Literacy Commission, which was established by the Scottish Labour Party, I am delighted to see the manifesto is taking illiteracy seriously. I welcome the commitment to driving forward the findings of the Commission and taking on a zero-tolerance approach to illiteracy and innumeracy in Scotland. No child should leave school without being able to read or write and Labour’s commitments are a positive step towards Scotland becoming the first country to eradicate illiteracy.”

Tommy MacKay

Educationalist and Child Psychologist

The best possible start for every child

Scottish Labour knows that investment in the early years of a child’s life is fundamental to their future well-being and success. Money spent on supporting a child during the vital early years can also prevent or reduce the need for more expensive intervention later on.

Scottish Labour will consult on an Early Years Bill that will pursue the delivery of a common package of support measures, prior to birth and until the age of 3, including provision for expectant parents during the mum’s pregnancy and additional support for young mums. We are also keen to explore how best to utilise and invest in the skills of our health visitors and early education professionals, to better monitor and support families during the first few years and develop early education and care provision, with the aim of equalling the best international practice.

To minimise the need for more expensive intervention later in life, we also aim to consult on a new package of targeted, evidence-based early intervention programmes, to help identify the barriers to a child’s development at an earlier stage. Improving monitoring will be a first step to enable specialist services, such as language and communication therapy, or psychological and counselling services, to

be alerted and to respond more quickly. We will build on the success of parenting support schemes and the nurture initiatives run by some councils and support the voluntary sector to play a key role in assisting those vulnerable children and families that need help. We also aim to work with local authorities, health boards and the voluntary sector to expand the existing network of family centres, starting with those communities with the highest levels of deprivation.

We believe that good quality nursery education is the first step towards delivering the productive citizens of tomorrow and we know that busy working parents need more support to maintain a healthy work-life balance today. Scottish Labour will therefore look at ways - statutory or otherwise - of improving the flexibility and number of hours of supported early education and care places that parents are offered and increasing the number of free early learning places for vulnerable 2 year olds.

Excellent, innovative schools

In tough economic times, parents and children rightly expect Scotland's education system to give young people the skills they will need to get ahead in the future. Scottish Labour is determined

that our education system rises to these expectations through innovative schools that inspire and equip all children for the vast array of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Schools should meet both the individual and collective needs of their pupils, including those who wish to develop practical and vocational skills, as well as those who focus on more academic subjects. To support this aim, we will foster closer co-operation between schools, colleges and employers in providing vocational education. In schools where there is considerable demand, we will invest in on-site provision, so that pupils can choose vocational subjects when they make their subject choices at S1 or S2. We will also encourage schools in adjacent areas to work together to increase pupil choice in Advanced Higher subjects.

We want to support head teachers and their staff by establishing the First Class Fund, to help schools implement these ambitious plans to develop vocational education. The Fund, which builds on the success of Labour's Schools of Ambition and Determined to Succeed programmes, will channel additional resources, separate from devolved school management budgets, to help schools develop innovative provision or develop a specialism that

increases the diversity of vocational provision within the education authority, extending choice and increasing quality. Excellent, innovative schools need excellent, innovative buildings. Scottish Labour will scrap the Scottish Futures Trust – which has stalled Scotland’s ambitious school building programme – and deliver improved funding mechanisms to enhance the school estate. We will explore all options to replace, rebuild or demolish those schools rated as ‘unsuitable’ and will ensure that education gets its fair share of available capital resources to improve facilities where most needed.

Better basics

An estimated 13,000 pupils in Scotland leave school each year still experiencing difficulty with reading, writing or numeracy. This is a waste of human and economic potential. Scottish Labour will therefore take a zero tolerance approach to illiteracy and innumeracy, ensuring that our future workforce is able to meet the needs of employers and that higher literacy levels are a central objective of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Scottish Labour will implement the key recommendations of the Literacy Commission, driving up standards in literacy and numeracy by offering specialised

jobs and training to up to 1000 recently qualified teachers who are struggling to find employment. These teachers will deliver additional targeted support in small groups in English and Maths for those who need it.

We will develop a strategy to encourage school pupils who have an interest in the skills that will drive future innovation and economic prosperity – science, technology, engineering and maths. To tackle gendered career segregation later on, it is particularly important to encourage girls and young women to choose these pathways.

Trusting teachers and support staff

Scotland’s teachers are well-placed to know the needs of their pupils and the best way to ensure that each child succeeds. We recognise that delivering good quality education would not be possible without the vital contribution made by classroom assistants and other support staff to the school community. We will give heads more responsibility for decisions around the curriculum and more flexibility over the deployment of staff and resources. We will ensure that the Curriculum for Excellence is brought back on track, so that teachers – and parents and pupils – can have confidence in the examination system and the curriculum into which it fits.

If we are to successfully nurture the potential of all of Scotland's young people, we need to attract the best talent to teaching. Scottish Labour welcomes the recommendations of the Donaldson report and we believe the time is now right for reviewing all aspects of leadership, management and training in education. We will work with teachers to raise professional standards and develop leadership potential, encouraging local authorities to support and prioritise continuing professional development for teachers during the transition to the Curriculum for Excellence.

Better behaviour

Scottish Labour will make tackling bullying and indiscipline a priority. We will require a discipline code to be developed in every school in Scotland, ensuring each school has positive policies in place for improving indiscipline and tackling bullying – particularly for those areas of bullying that are on the rise, such as cyber and homophobic bullying. We will compel schools to monitor and record incidences of bullying and share this information transparently with parents.

We will ensure that there are more options and powers for teachers to deal with pupils who persistently misbehave, including adopting a restorative practice approach,

which ensures children take responsibility for their actions. We will also ensure that citizenship is an integral part of the curriculum, promoting respect, tolerance and civility within schools and beyond.

Involving parents

We will do more to recognise and develop the role of parents and carers, highlighting their crucial contribution to raising attainment and achievement levels. We will expect schools and nurseries to do more to engage with, listen to and work with parents. But we also expect every parent to support their child's learning. To do this effectively, parents must have easy access to information and advice about the opportunities that schools can offer, together with feedback on their child's development and progress. We want parents to take responsibility for ensuring that their children attend school and will ensure that good models of achieving school attendance are spread widely to help them do so. We will build on the various successful models of Home-School Link Workers, ensuring that no child slips through the net.

Healthy, active kids

Challenging young people outside of the

“We know that fees would put off many of the poorest students in Scotland from ever going to university, making education more about money than about ability. Scottish Labour’s ruling out of fees of any kind in Scotland is therefore great news for students.”

Liam Burns

President of NUS Scotland

classroom is vital if we want to foster positive long-term attitudes towards wellbeing, confidence and towards communities. The importance of play in developing young minds has now been recognised and Scottish Labour will introduce a National Play Strategy to ensure it gets the priority it deserves. We want to expand the provision of wrap-around care and activities for all of Scotland’s young people and will start by ensuring that transport, leisure and children’s policies are joined-up, promote traffic-free zones and improved play facilities in public parks, as well as pitches for organised sport. We will also sustain and improve on existing provisions for breakfast and lunch clubs and the eco schools programme.

We want to support active, healthy kids and expect schools to develop and support outdoor learning, making the most of the opportunities offered under the new Curriculum for Excellence. We will work towards 2 hours of quality PE in every school, adopting creative ways to engage both boys and girls in sports activities. This will be supported by a reinvigorated Active Schools Coordinator programme and free swimming lessons for primary school pupils. We will improve access to both school and community sports facilities and

other clubs outwith the school day, with local sports clubs providing opportunities for pupils of all ages to try new activities. To mark the 2014 Commonwealth Games, we will support the Champions in Schools programme, so that all young people have access to sport and positive role models, encouraging sports clubs and businesses to ensure that our best sportsmen and women can inspire the next generation of Scots to sporting success. We will also introduce Commonwealth Legacy Schools, to ensure the legacy of the Games is an investment in Scotland's future talent.

Scottish Labour wants to make musical education accessible to all, widening access to music tuition and musical instruments for Scotland's young people. We also recognise the importance of youth work and the benefits it can bring, helping young people to gain skills and experience outwith the classroom setting.

Staying on to get ahead

To ensure we have the best trained future workforce in the world and to encourage greater social mobility, Scottish Labour will give every young person in Scotland the right to quality training, or to stay in school or to go into further education until they are 18 by 2015. This will be achieved via a range of measures, including a new right

to an apprenticeship for every suitably qualified school leaver and funding to restart ProjectScotland. We will also do all we can to encourage those youngsters who want to further their studies and develop expertise in skills are vital to our economy - science, technology, engineering and maths.

We want those who choose to invest in their skills and remain in further education to feel properly supported. That is why Scottish Labour will protect the current EMA system and replace the broken college bursary system with a new College Maintenance Allowance. We will also take steps to ensure that all students – including those undertaking articulation courses – are exempt from paying council tax for the full period of their studies.

With Scottish Labour, there will be no up-front or back-end tuition fees for Scottish university students. We will ensure Scottish students are not disadvantaged against fee-paying students from other regions and countries when applying for courses and that the number of graduates is maintained. Scottish Labour will undertake an immediate root and branch review of Scottish higher education, with the aim of extending access, overhauling the transition between school and university and focusing attention on

improving the student experience and supporting students' needs. The review will also look at ways of developing the competitiveness of Scottish universities and their economic contribution, as well as improving governance and efficiency. We will undertake a simultaneous review of the further education sector, looking at funding and governance arrangements, with the aim of improving cohesion and matching provision to need and demand.

Scottish Labour has a longstanding commitment to trade union led learning. We initiated the Scottish Union Learning Fund and the Trade Union Working Party on Lifelong Learning. We recognise the importance of this activity in improving workplace productivity and we will work with trade unions and employers in supporting action to improve the way skills are used in the workplace. We will continue to work with the STUC to expand the availability of everyday skills training in the workplace and we will maintain support and funding for the Scottish Union Learning Fund.

Protecting the most vulnerable youngsters

Living in a family on a low income, having additional learning support needs, having a disability and being in care all remain

strongly linked to poorer outcomes and lower educational attainment. Scottish Labour will therefore prioritise the direction of education resources towards schools in the most disadvantaged areas and monitor the outcomes of the most socially excluded children in education through the inspectorate system. We also recognise that young people with caring responsibilities face particular challenges as they work to complete their education and we will ensure that our skills and learning strategies consider their specific needs.

We want all children to prosper, but for a small group of vulnerable young people, challenging family circumstances make this ambition more difficult. Scottish Labour is committed to taking consistent, swift and effective action to ensure vulnerable youngsters receive the care and protection they deserve. In certain circumstances, to prevent long-term damage to a child, we need to intervene at an earlier stage.

We recognise the success of the early intervention project in New Orleans, which sets out a strict timetable ensuring swift action is taken to protect children, including the use of permanent fostering where no improvement has taken place. This approach is being piloted in Glasgow and a similar initiative is being developed

in London. We will monitor the results closely and, if this approach is found to be successful in reducing harm to children, we will roll it out in other parts of the country.

Looked-after children are amongst Scotland's most vulnerable and it is not good enough that innocent lives have been harmed by the tragic cases of abuse and neglect that have recently scarred Scotland. The Scottish Government has a responsibility to act and Scottish Labour will work with the recently established centre of excellence for looked-after children to develop new standards and roll out a programme of measures intended to support these youngsters and improve their outcomes. As a first step, we will ensure that the responsibility for child protection is brought under one cabinet secretary. We will continue to keep up the pressure to ensure that Child Trust Funds are reinstated for Scotland's looked-after children.

“Over the past eight months, I have led a campaign to tackle bullying in Scottish Schools. I know from personal experience just what a detrimental effect bullying behaviour can have on people - especially children and young people. Scottish Labour gets the problem and I am very pleased to see firm commitments on this issue adopted in the manifesto.”

Usman Ali

*Campaigner, Tackling Bullying
in Scottish Schools*

Fighting for what really matters



"Thirty eight people died in the C.Diff outbreak at the Vale of Leven Hospital between 2007 and 2008, including my mother-in-law. At the time, I found it hard to believe that, in a modern country like Scotland, people were dying for want of cleaner hospitals.

"It was then that I started my campaign for change.

"Local Labour politicians were always available for advice and assistance after the outbreak and I know that both myself and the other families affected were glad of the support.

"As cuts start to take effect here in Scotland, I want to see a Scottish Government that stands up for the issues that matter to ordinary people. For me, that means local health services, cleaner hospitals and retained staffing levels. When I see other parties prioritising constitutional issues - despite there still being so much to do to get basics right - it seems like total folly.

"During my work campaigning on healthcare over the last few years, I came to believe so strongly in the Scottish Labour Party's commitment to our health service, that I recently joined the party myself."

Chapter Three

A Healthier Scotland

Health campaigner Michelle Stewart has been speaking out for cleaner hospitals since she tragically lost her mother-in-law in the C.Diff outbreak at the Vale of Leven Hospital in 2008.

Labour's Vision

“ The NHS is the embodiment of Scottish Labour’s values of fairness. We are committed to a patient-centred NHS, where the weakest and most vulnerable people can find care and compassion and where treatment is provided on the basis of need, not the ability to pay.

“ In uncertain times, ordinary people want to know that this principle will prevail, that their healthcare will be protected and that they will continue to have access to first-class services. Scottish Labour will always stand up for the NHS.

“ Seeing working people struggle to balance their job with caring for an elderly or sick relative is not going to get our country back on its feet. Being burdened with the consequences of ill health, whilst ignoring its root causes, is not the foundation for a stronger Scotland.

“ In our fast-paced and ever-changing world, Scottish Labour will deliver a dynamic NHS which is equipped and ready to face the challenges of the future.”

Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader

Our promises to Scotland

- Prioritise the protection of NHS jobs, with no compulsory redundancies for NHS staff, to maintain the focus on the highest standards of care for patients
- Deliver a National Care Service within the lifetime of the next parliament, to provide the right care at the right time for people in Scotland
- Introduce a new right to see a cancer specialist and get results within two weeks by 2015, halving the current waiting time
- Deliver free swimming lessons for Scotland's primary school children through a new Commonwealth Swimming Fund
- Support the NHS through a time of unprecedented financial pressure by delivering bold efficiency measures, including immediately cutting the number of special health boards and merging IT systems

Protecting the NHS

Scottish Labour will support the NHS in the face of unprecedented financial pressures, protecting the NHS budget in Scotland and passing on all Barnett consequentials for health. We will prioritise the protection of NHS jobs, ensuring that there are no compulsory redundancies for staff within the NHS partnership model. We reject the UK government proposals to introduce market values to the NHS and will ensure that in Scotland the NHS remains a public service, publicly delivered.

“I am very pleased to support Scottish Labour’s plans to tackle Healthcare Associated Infections. They will bring us back to a position we once held - world leaders in prevention and control - and make our hospitals safe for all.”

Professor Hugh Pennington

World-leading expert in bacteriology and hospital superbugs

Whilst protecting NHS spending, we cannot allow a single penny to be spent without achieving maximum efficiency. Our commitment to driving down costs will focus on the elimination of waste, so that we can protect jobs and patient care on the frontline. We will review all NHS bonus schemes, performance-related pay, merit and distinction awards and reduce the number of health boards, immediately cutting the number of special health boards as a first step. We will also look to merge IT systems and drive better asset management, such as the sale of unused land. We believe there are further efficiencies to be made in the prescribing of medicines, including the use of generic medicines and streamlining the system for repeat prescriptions. Every pound of efficiency savings generated by the NHS will stay in the NHS.

Improving delivery

The challenges of a fast-paced 21st century Scotland require a modern, dynamic health service that does not shy away from change. Scottish Labour is committed to shifting the focus of the NHS in Scotland, from being a reactive service for ill health, towards being a local, proactive, patient-centred service for health and well-being. Too many people enter the healthcare

system or are admitted to hospital for medical treatment when we know that the right support, at the right time, would have prevented ill health and enabled them to remain in their own home. Whilst retaining our commitment to free personal care, Scottish Labour will deliver a new National Care Service to provide the right care in the right setting. Not only will this be a first step towards ending the postcode lottery in care, but it will also tackle delayed discharge, which is costing the NHS millions. We will restore dignity in care and end 15 minute home care visits.

We are determined to find new ways of providing health services that are as local as possible and, as a start, will maintain A&E services at Monklands and Ayr hospitals. We will support the use of community hospitals and take steps to ensure that patients have access to treatment as close to their homes as is safely possible. We also believe that, even in a difficult economic climate, it should be possible for people at the end of their lives to be cared for and die in the place of their choice.

We will evaluate the current pilots of public participation and direct elections to health boards, to ensure greater democratic accountability for the health service. Scottish Labour will review and reform

Community Health and Care Partnerships, to ensure that they are better placed to act as a democratic delivery model for the new National Care Service and to better involve local authorities, patient groups and voluntary organisations. We will ensure that the NHS has the right mix of skills, including specialist nurses for conditions such as cancer or epilepsy, and a range of allied health professionals, such as physiotherapists, occupational, speech and language therapists.

We will revise health and social care procurement procedures, ending e-auctions for social care contracts and introducing quality standards.

Scottish Labour will review the health service's resilience to winter weather conditions, with a particular focus on capacity in rural areas. We will ensure that the needs of vulnerable people are met, for example, through a national helpline when bad weather strikes.

Better, cleaner hospitals

Patients and their families have a right to know that when they go into hospital, they will be treated in safe conditions. Scottish Labour's priority will be to eliminate superbugs in the NHS and we will work towards implementing a refreshed 15-point plan, drawn-up with two of the UK's

leading health experts, Professors Hugh Pennington and Brian Toft.

Scottish Labour will also support research into the causes and treatments of healthcare associated infections, such as C.Diff and MRSA, and will establish a properly resourced reference laboratory to ensure we look ahead to proactively identify and quickly deal with new infections. We further believe that individual rooms should be prioritised during the building of new hospitals, to aid infection control.

“Early diagnosis is very important in improving cancer outcomes. Labour’s pledge to see a cancer specialist in two weeks is deliverable and will also help to reduce patient anxiety.”

Roy Rampling

*Professor of Neuro-oncology,
University of Glasgow*

We believe that there is a serious gap in care for children and adult sufferers of chronic pain in Scotland and it is wrong to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds sending Scottish patients on journeys of hundreds of miles to seek treatment in England. Scottish Labour will seek to deliver increased action and awareness of chronic pain in primary care and throughout the NHS, look to enhance managed clinical networks for chronic pain and provide the option of residential treatment for sufferers, based on the model of Bronllys in Wales. For those suffering from long-term conditions, we will also retain the Self Management Fund for patients beyond 2011.

A focus on fairness

Scottish Labour’s founding vision for the NHS was to establish a service that provides universal care of the highest standards. This principle remains as important today as it was 60 years ago. It is unacceptable that health inequality is still so strongly linked to income levels, poverty and deprivation and that quality of provision varies from one part of Scotland to another. Scottish Labour will work to end the postcode lottery in healthcare, ensuring that our services provide equal treatment, free at the point of need, in every part of

Scotland. We will, for example, consider measures to help equalise access to IVF services and expand the provision of insulin pumps for young people.

To ensure equitable access to hospitals, Scottish Labour will seek to complete the abolition of hospital parking charges by investigating if this can also be achieved in PPP-owned and managed car park. With Scottish Labour, there will be no reintroduction of charges for prescriptions in Scotland.

We will continue to invest in NHS dentistry in Scotland and pursue the aspirations for improving patient access and reducing oral health inequalities set out in Labour's Dental Action Plan. We will also maintain free eye and dental checks for patients.

We will ensure fairness for Scotland's veterans and will continue to develop a programme for their health support, including support for those who have been deployed by the Territorial Army.

Tackling waiting times

Despite real progress, cancer still blights the lives of too many Scottish families. Scottish Labour will introduce a new right to see a cancer specialist and get results within two weeks by 2015, halving the current waiting time of one month, where

clinically appropriate. We will also pledge support for the programme of financial advice projects for patients at the five main cancer centres across Scotland.

Preventative healthcare

It is no longer enough that our health system deals with the consequences of ill health. If we want Scotland to be as competitive as it can be, we must be bolder in the shift towards preventative healthcare.

We want to tackle Scotland's problem with obesity and support people across Scotland to lead a healthy and active life. We will sustain and improve on existing provisions for breakfast and lunch clubs in schools and continue to target nurture classes and nutritional support at those children living in the most deprived communities. We will also introduce a new Nutrition Bill.

We will get Scotland's children moving by working towards 2 hours of quality PE in every school, encouraging free access to swimming pools for children and older people and delivering free swimming lessons for primary school children via a new Commonwealth Swimming Fund.

Scottish Labour will deliver a National Strategy for Action on Alcohol, to identify fair and effective measures to tackle

alcohol abuse. We must break the cycle of abusive behaviour and take a long-term approach to change the culture of drinking in Scotland. We will continue to support measures to prevent irresponsible alcohol promotions. We will crack down on the sale of alcohol to under eighteens through greater use of test purchasing and by encouraging bottle tagging. Following the examples elsewhere in Europe and in America, we want to see action taken to limit the permitted levels of caffeine in pre-mixed alcoholic drinks, which have been linked to anti-social behaviour. We will promote alcohol awareness across all age and income groups and build on current good practice by supporting local alcohol partnerships.

To ensure those who have serious alcohol problems get the help they need, we will build on the success of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders by piloting the use of Alcohol Treatment and Testing Orders in Scotland and we will invest in support services for those who need them.

Scottish Labour led the UK in banning smoking in enclosed public spaces. We remain determined to do even more to tackle Scotland's high smoking rates. We will introduce a revised Tobacco Control Strategy that will tighten up the loopholes in legislation to prevent tobacco advertising

on merchandise. We will consult on the desirability of a ban on smoking in cars that are carrying child-passengers.

To investigate the potential efficiencies created by early intervention for those with hearing loss, Scottish Labour will support a hearing screening pilot for Scotland.

Scottish Labour will ensure that age-appropriate education on relationships and sexual health is available to all age groups, in schools and by other means.

Workplace and occupational health is important and in partnership with employers and trade unions, health awareness and promotion within the workplace will be improved and expanded.

Building on action to compensate victims, Scottish Labour will support research into asbestos-related illnesses, such as mesothelioma. In recognition of the loss and suffering caused by contaminated blood and blood products, we will act on the recommendations of the Penrose inquiry when it reports.

Mental health

Scottish Labour recognises mental health as a key public health concern. We will deliver a Mental Health Strategy that addresses the lifelong nature of some mental illness and the need for social

support and advocacy in this area. As part of the strategy, we will ensure a review of the progress made towards tackling eating disorders, including taking action to establish how many people have been diagnosed with eating disorders and supporting education on the illnesses through the school system.

Scottish Labour will also take swift action to review how the early intervention of talking and other therapies can help to reduce the number of people who are on antidepressants and other medicines, and work in partnership with employers and trade unions to launch a programme to promote positive attitudes to mental health in the workplace.

For older people, we want to ensure those with late-life depression and anxiety are diagnosed and supported. We also aim to expand the provision of services for those with dementia and Alzheimer's, to improve the management of these patients in acute hospital settings and to ensure that every area of the country has access to improved services.

“Although there are hundreds of thousands of sufferers, chronic pain has been shamefully neglected in Scotland. This is the first time any party has highlighted the issue properly in an election manifesto and I warmly welcome this firm commitment. Proper consideration of the injustice faced by sufferers is long overdue. This is a breakthrough after recent years of spin but little action for patients or health professionals struggling without proper backing.”

Dorothy-Grace Elder

Pain campaigner for over 30 years and founder of the Chronic Pain Campaign in the Scottish Parliament

"No parent should have to endure the pain of burying their child. Losing Damian as a result of such a violent act was utterly devastating and I don't want anyone else to go through what my family has been through over the past few years.

"I won't allow Damian's death to be in vain and that is why I have been campaigning tirelessly for a change in the law to tackle this country's heinous knife crime culture. Scottish Labour's plan to jail knife criminals not only has my backing but it has the support of thousands of people in my community who have signed a petition in favour of tougher punishment for carrying blades.

"I have been frustrated by the lack of progress on cracking down on knife crime in recent years. It's time for change. Scotland deserves better."





Chapter Four

A Safer Scotland

John Muir, the anti-knife crime campaigner from Greenock, is more convinced than ever of the need for minimum mandatory sentences for knife criminals. His son Damian was murdered by a knife criminal in 2007.

Labour's Vision

“We believe that governments should be on the side of those who work hard, who do the right thing and try to get on in life. We believe that every woman and man in Scotland has a right to walk our streets in safety; that every young person has a right to live without fear of knife crime; that every family has a right to live free from intimidation in their own home; and that every community has the right to be supported in getting vandals, drug dealers and thugs off their streets.

“We can be immensely proud that Scotland’s justice system is admired the world-over for its foundation in fairness and compassion. But this compassion and fairness must extend beyond offenders. It must support victims and our communities as well.

“From ensuring that all of those convicted of carrying a knife go to jail, to demanding that offenders pay for their crimes by contributing to a Victims’ Fund, we will ensure that the rights, wellbeing and protection of victims and law-abiding people are at the heart of our justice system.”

Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader

Our promises to Scotland

- We will protect frontline police jobs and police numbers, with a community policing team in your area
- New mandatory minimum jail sentences for those carrying knives in Scotland
- Put victims first, through the creation of a Victims' Commissioner, a Victims' Fund and a new charter of Victims' Rights
- Repeal dangerous plans to scrap the use of short prison sentences
- Deliver better services and cost efficiencies through the creation of a single police force and a single fire service for Scotland

“The Fire Brigades Union believes that the restructure of the service is the best method of ensuring the long term ability of the fire and rescue service to deliver a high quality service to the people of Scotland.”

John Duffy

Scottish Secretary, Fire Brigades Union

Supporting frontline policing and firefighters

We understand that people want to see more police on the streets and are anxious to know if frontline services will be protected in uncertain times. Scottish Labour will not make here today, gone tomorrow promises on police numbers - but we will guarantee that there will be no cuts to police on the beat and we will protect frontline police jobs and police numbers. We will also ensure that more police officers are out in communities, rather than stuck behind a desk. We are very clear – police officers should not be taken off the front line to cover the duties that should be carried out by police staff. We will ensure they can spend more time out on the beat – where they should be.

To increase administrative efficiencies and free up resources for the frontline, Scottish Labour will legislate to deliver a single police force for Scotland, with delegated authority and local accountability mechanisms. We will also deliver a single fire and rescue service, improving its performance and investing the savings in the frontline, so that we have the firefighters we need in our communities.

On the side of victims

Governments should be on the side of hard-working people, doing everything in their power to support families and individuals who do the right thing and want a decent life. Scottish Labour will therefore work to rebalance the justice system, giving greater focus to victims.

We will establish a Victims' Fund, requiring convicted offenders in Scotland to pay a levy which will help fund victim support services. A new Victims' Commissioner will champion a Charter of Victims' Rights that will, as a minimum, ensure victims and witnesses are given a clearer understanding of legal processes before, during and after their time in court. We will also aim to change the rules, so that victims are able to give impact statements to parole boards before the release of an offender is considered.

To support the victims of domestic violence, Scottish Labour will enable police and prosecutors to provide better protection, by providing a more robust response to breached civil protection orders. We will also widen the scope of the Victim Notification Scheme, so that all victims of domestic violence are informed if an individual is about to be released from custody. The Glasgow domestic

abuse court has been highly successful in bringing perpetrators of domestic abuse to justice. Scottish Labour aims to build on this success by encouraging similar approaches in other parts of the country. Following a scheme in Strathclyde that has seen over a hundred persistent, dangerous and violent offenders brought to justice in its first year of operation, Scottish Labour will also roll out specialist domestic abuse taskforces across Scotland, supported by specialist domestic abuse prosecutors. We will seek to maintain funding for existing services that aim to tackle violence against women.

Rape conviction rates in Scotland are shockingly low and remain amongst the worst in the western world. Scottish Labour will ensure a renewed focus on improving the treatment of victims of rape in the justice system, reviewing the sexual offences legislation, as well as tough action to increase conviction rates to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. We believe that the time has come to consider the arguments for reforming the need for corroboration in rape cases and will consider the recommendations of the Carloway Review.

The sexual exploitation of children is a horrific form of abuse. Worryingly, the age of victims of sexual exploitation is dropping and with greater internet use,

child exploitation is becoming increasingly organised. Scottish Labour will seek to commission research on the nature and scope of child sexual exploitation in Scotland and take the tough action required to stop those who prey on young people. We will also pilot the use of GPS satellite tracking technology for serious sex offenders when they are released into the community.

Human trafficking amounts to modern - day slavery and with the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games just around the corner, there is a danger Scotland will see an increase in human trafficking. Scottish Labour will take tough action to root out this despicable crime and stop women in Scotland and those brought to this country being exploited. We are committed to cracking down on those who purchase sex and will build on the work done through the Criminalisation of the Purchase and Sale of Sex (Scotland) Bill. We will also bring forward a detailed and robust licensing scheme for those premises in which lap-dancing takes place.

Transparency in sentencing

Scottish Labour has listened to the concerns of knife crime campaigners and the tens of thousands of Scots who want

the Government to crack down on knife criminals. We will take strong action and introduce mandatory minimum custodial sentences for knife crime in Scotland. We are very clear – if you carry a knife, you should go to jail. We will also work with the Scottish Sentencing Council to investigate whether to review the minimum sentence for knife murderers, as has been done in England and Wales.

For too long, victims, the public, lawyers and even the judiciary have said that they have little idea how long offenders will actually serve once they have been sentenced. Scottish Labour will deliver honesty and transparency in sentencing by working with the Scottish Sentencing Council to simplify the current complicated system of discounts. We will also take steps to end the iniquity of unconditional automatic early release for offenders serving over two years in prison and repeal dangerous plans to scrap the use of prison sentences of less than three months. Consideration will be given to allowing information on offenders' previous convictions to be cited in court.

We want to see asset confiscation become a standard part of sentencing. We will toughen up the proceeds of crime legislation to examine the possibility of building on the current practice in Ireland,

where the burden of proof to show that funds have been acquired legitimately is placed on the accused. We will also extend the right to seize offenders' profits so that it includes assets like houses and cars.

We will institute an audit of Scots Criminal Law, ensuring that it is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, to avoid costly compensation claims and to ensure that the mistakes of the past will not happen again.

Tough action on anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour powers give communities the chance to fight back against vandalism, intimidation, noise and rowdy behaviour. Scottish Labour will introduce a five point plan that will give communities new powers to tackle nuisance behaviour. Measures will include:

- getting ASBOs back on track, by giving community councils and residents' groups a formal right to apply to councils for a fast-track ASBO;
- cracking down on problem neighbours by linking short-term tenancies to tenancy agreements, so that unacceptable behaviour can lead to eviction;
- introducing legislation requiring private landlords to act against anti-social residents;
- reclaiming public parks by rolling out 'park ASBOs';
- introducing Drink Banning Orders to curb alcohol-fuelled antisocial behaviour in problem cases.

Scottish Labour supports the system of community payback, which delivers visible, instant justice to low-level offenders on Scotland's streets and promotes genuine project work to benefit communities. In moving forward, we want to get the Glasgow Community Court project back on track and pilot the right for local people to decide what project work should be carried out by offenders under community payback schemes in their area.

We believe that the third sector has a key role to play in providing one to one support for the difficult families that are often at the root of antisocial behaviour and we will work in partnership with them to deliver no-nonsense action.

Making prison work

Our prisons should rehabilitate prisoners, turning the offenders of yesterday into the productive citizens of tomorrow. To achieve this, prisoners must be engaged in work or learning throughout their sentence and the public should be assured that only those offenders who are prepared

“Every convicted offender should be required to pay a surcharge to help fund victim support services. For offenders disposed of through financial penalties the surcharge should be added to any fine. The Victims’ Fund would build on the support that has been provided to victims of crime in Scotland in recent years.”

Jim Andrews
*Deputy Chief Executive,
Victims’ Rights Charity*

to use their time in prison productively should expect to gain privileges. Scottish Labour’s message is very clear – there will be no perks without work for prisoners in Scotland.

Too many prisoners also test positive during drugs tests. Scottish Labour will take a zero tolerance approach to drugs in prisons and will introduce more random searches for prison visitors and prison wardens, banning those visitors who are caught smuggling drugs into prison.

We will further toughen-up the monitoring of open prisons, guided by the recommendations of the Spencer Report and will work with the third sector to reduce re-offending upon release, including supporting schemes that ensure offenders are met ‘at the gate’ so that they don’t slip back into a life of crime .

Scottish Labour shares the public’s deep concern about giving votes to prisoners. If the franchise must be extended, then it should only be done in the most limited way possible.

The 218 Centre in Glasgow provides an alternative to custody for female offenders and we aim to develop further alternatives based on this approach. In particular, we aim to create more rehabilitation places and use Drug Treatment and Testing Orders

for a wider range of offences for female offenders who have children, to maximise the care and minimise the impact on the child.

Cutting crime

We know that serious crime takes an intolerable toll on our communities. That's why Scottish Labour wants to see the serious crime campus at Gartcosh completed and we will work to build on the success of the Scottish Crime and Drug Agency. We aim to extend the use of online crime maps, so that communities can get regular, monthly access to information on the crimes committed in their area, along with information on what is being done to turn this around.

We will also review the potential for using Social Impact Bonds, which encourage private investors to support social entrepreneurs in achieving real results for crime prevention.

Cracking down on substance misuse

All too often, excessive alcohol consumption leads to crime and violence. Scottish Labour will roll out a range of measures to tackle problem alcohol abuse in Scotland. Alongside our National Strategy for Action on Alcohol, Scottish

Labour will pilot groundbreaking new Alcohol Treatment and Testing Orders and Drink Banning Orders, to help offenders kick their addiction and address their offending behaviour. We will introduce a right for licensing forums to petition local authorities to end 24 hour licensing where problems arise and encourage local licensing boards to enforce the tagging of bottles of alcohol in problem areas to help crack down on under-age drinking, naming and shaming the retailers and adults who supply kids with alcohol.

Drugs, and the callous criminals who peddle them, are a scourge on our society. That's why Labour will bring back the effective 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' campaign, to encourage the public to call Crimestoppers anonymously, helping to get more dealers off our streets and behind bars.

Access to justice

Legal aid is vital to ensuring that access to justice is available to all. Scottish Labour is concerned that legal aid funding sometimes does not reach those who need it most. We will therefore bring forward a wide-ranging review of legal aid, with the aim of supporting the Scottish Legal Aid Board in their drive to ensure that funds are directed to those most in need and

that legal aid is administered and delivered as effectively as possible. We will work to ensure communities are better supported by the Scottish legal system, through law centres, the Citizens Advice Bureau and other advice providers.

Scottish Labour will modernise the civil Justice System, ensuring that any changes to Civil Courts will be informed by our commitment to fairness and access for those seeking justice and ensuring that legal aid prioritises those who are genuinely most in need.

Many people find the Scottish legal system inaccessible and complex. That's why Scottish Labour will make changes to the school curriculum to include information on the Scottish legal system, ensuring all our young people are equipped with an understanding of the basic principles of law, their rights and their responsibilities. We will ensure each new Act of the Scottish Parliament is accompanied with straightforward information that properly explains the new law and its impact.

Protection of workers

Scottish Labour will support measures underlined in the Damages (Scotland) Bill and the Protection of Workers (Scotland) Bill, placing particular emphasis on

protecting public service workers from physical and verbal abuse. We will also take forward new laws to ensure that employers can be effectively held to account for accidents to employees which are a result of negligence by employers.

Too often, the conduct of Fatal Accident Inquiries takes too long and their conclusions are ignored with impunity. Scottish Labour will review the legislation relating to Fatal Accident Inquiries, to ensure it is fit for the 21st century, that lessons are learnt and the needs of victims are met.

Tackling hate crime

Labour will take tough action to stamp out sectarianism, wherever it occurs, to help build a Scotland that recognises and celebrates the faiths and cultures of all Scots. Scottish Labour will put tackling sectarianism back at the heart of government.

Hate crime has no place in our society, yet a worrying proportion of hate crimes continue to go unreported. Scottish Labour will work to drive up reporting rates, improve support for victims and ensure the perpetrators of hate crimes are severely dealt with. We will also ensure that sentencing guidelines deliver consistency in

taking account of aggravated factors such as racism, homophobia, sectarianism and other hate crimes.

“We are grateful for the Scottish Labour Party’s longstanding support for the families and victims of mesothelioma and pleural plaques. Measures championed by Labour – like the Damages Scotland Bill – ensure justice for innocent victims and are a real step forward in preventing the need for long and distressing court cases at a time when people are already grieving.”

Phyllis Craig

Asbestos Support Charity

Fighting for what really matters

"Everybody wants to live in a strong, safe community. It's an issue that I feel passionately about and I spend a lot of my time campaigning to ensure that our communities are inclusive, promote equality and protect the most vulnerable."

"As a wheelchair user myself, I know the challenges disabled people can face in accessing things that others take for granted - from transport, pubs and shops, to public services and employment. I also know that older people, people on low incomes, those who grew up in the care system, women and many others, are faced with a similar range of challenges."

"Inequality is complex and for those living in its shadow, it can touch almost every aspect of life."

"We face particularly difficult economic times in the years ahead and I'm worried that, unless someone takes a firm stand, services for some of the most vulnerable people in our society could become an easy target for cuts."





Chapter Five

Stronger Communities

Mark Cooper, 26, is a lifelong equalities campaigner with a passion for speaking up for those who face injustice or discrimination. He believes so strongly that Scottish Labour is on the side of ordinary communities that he stood as a Labour Party candidate in a previous election.

Labour's Vision

“Strong communities are the basic building blocks of a better society. Those like Mark - the individuals, campaigners, volunteers, local organisations, businesses and social entrepreneurs who work to build a positive future for us all - are the backbone of our communities. The job of government must be to support and work with them as they improve our society.

“Scottish Labour will be on the side of Scotland’s communities. We will develop opportunities for investment in the voluntary sector, support communities to take ownership of properties in their area, appoint a Disabilities Champion and ensure that our plans to boost employment support those who find it most difficult to get a job.

“This is because Scottish Labour believes that the foundation for a strong community is fairness. Jobs, opportunity and prosperity must be spread more widely throughout our communities - to improve housing, to regenerate deprived communities, to support the most vulnerable and to lift people out of poverty.”

Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader

Our promises to Scotland

- Ensure the Scottish Future Jobs Fund, the modern apprenticeship guarantee, procurement policies and community benefit clauses support employment opportunities for individuals who are the most removed from or disadvantaged in the labour market
- Help first time buyers to get onto the property ladder with a new First Foot scheme that will reduce the size of deposits on new properties
- Champion volunteering, beginning by restarting ProjectScotland
- Freeze council tax for the next two years
- Recognise the needs of local people in allocations as part of our house building programme

“One of Scottish Labour’s first acts in government was to get rid of the infamous Clause 2A which put back the cause of equality for a generation of young gay people. It is great to see this manifesto make an equally firm commitment to LGBT rights. Scottish Labour has consistently championed the rights of Scotland’s LGBT community”

David Johnson

*Charity Director and
LGBT Rights Campaigner*

Meeting Scotland’s housing needs

In difficult economic times, we know many people in Scotland are anxious to obtain and retain secure, affordable homes. Scottish Labour will work to meet the target that all unintentionally homeless people are offered a secure tenancy by 2012 and will provide guidance on the interpretation of homelessness and housing legislation. We will also review the effectiveness of current schemes to help those facing repossession, as well as implementing the pre-action protocols campaigned for by Labour.

Scottish Labour will ensure that housing allocations address priority needs - including the needs of key workers - but also that sufficient weight is given to meeting the needs of local people. We are committed to building housing that suits the specific needs of people, including older people and those with disabilities. We will therefore explore how best sensitive lettings can be used to support vulnerable people and to ensure sustainable communities. We will also fulfil our commitment to meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and consult on raising building standards, especially with regard to energy efficiency.

We understand the urgency of delivering

homes that are affordable. Scottish Labour will introduce First Foot – a new mortgage indemnity guarantee scheme that will reduce the level of deposit required of first time home buyers to only five or ten per cent, helping them to realise their aspiration of owning a home.

We will examine how we can prioritise funding for housing and will explore alternative sources of finance – including establishing an infrastructure fund to encourage private developers - to ensure that more houses are built to satisfy demand. Scottish Labour will also consider the establishment of a new taskforce to identify the changing needs and challenges we face in housing supply and examine the role of local authorities, housing associations and co-operatives in increasing supply.

We will support community-based housing associations and housing co-operatives with a stable level of subsidy, ensuring they are able to fulfil their roles as community anchors providing a range of services for people in their local communities. We believe the time is now right to review the role of Cooperative Development Scotland and we will consider the part it might play in supporting the creation of housing cooperatives.

We will ensure that tenants are consulted on how their housing is provided and their local community is supported. We will put in place procedures so that the Housing Regulator, whilst fulfilling its regulatory role, is responsive to the views of tenants. Scottish Labour will look to establish a Housing Advisory Service which will provide aspirant tenants and homeowners with advice on housing tailored to their needs. We will also consider ways to establish a Housing Tribunal to simplify the ways of ruling on housing legislation.

Whilst we know that policies need to support stable communities, we recognise that housing needs are diverse. Housing should meet the needs of a range of people, including those seeking home ownership and middle market renting. Scottish Labour will require all property factors to comply with a code of conduct that will end the nightmare many homeowners face at the hands of unscrupulous factors.

We also recognise the contribution of the private rented sector to meeting affordable housing needs. We will seek to make further improvements in this sector and encourage responsible investment, tightening up the landlord registration scheme to root out rogue landlords and

act to ensure that landlords take action to tackle anti-social behaviour and maintain standards in the properties they rent. Scottish Labour recognises that a credible strategy is needed to bring Scotland's 25,000 long-term empty homes back into use. As a first step we will commit to funding the Empty Homes Partnership beyond 2012 and ensure that the Scottish Government's housing budget can be used to bring empty properties back into use.

Ending fuel poverty

Scottish Labour is determined to end fuel poverty by 2016, delivering affordable, warmer homes for the people of Scotland. We believe the fairest approach is to target resources at the most fuel-poor, especially older and more vulnerable people. We will continue to invest in measures to reduce fuel poverty and will review the effectiveness of the Energy Assistance Package and the Home Insulation Scheme. We will work with local authorities, energy companies, housing associations and local communities to develop heat and power schemes that can help provide warmer homes and lower fuel bills. We will also look at ways of helping people access newer, more efficient boilers and supporting a programme of sustainable home insulation,

to help provide warmer homes and lower fuel bills.

Regenerating our communities

Scottish Labour is committed to the regeneration of our communities and recognises the important role that the Scottish Government, local government, private developers, the third and cooperative sector, public agencies and local communities themselves have in co-ordinating regeneration. Scottish Labour's urban regeneration companies are transforming communities for the better. We will continue to support them in their efforts to transform those areas facing the greatest economic challenges.

Too many of our town centres become virtual ghost towns outwith the business day. We will encourage mixed tenure in town centres and will explore proposals for transforming vacant town centre units into public sector supported 'office hubs', with IT access and meeting spaces. We will also support communities to take ownership of derelict land or rundown properties, to refurbish it or turn it into new, green space, reviewing and seeking to expand the range of funding opportunities available to enhance community-led regeneration.

Scottish Labour will establish a review of land management, to ensure management agencies properly maintain the land they own. We will also consider measures to free land being held in land banks.

Delivering social justice

For people who have grown-up in care or in financial hardship, for women struggling to manage the demands of family life, for disabled people and for unpaid and young carers there can be a many obstacles to accessing decent, secure jobs. To help support equity and inclusion during difficult economic times, Scottish Labour will take steps to ensure that the Scottish Future Jobs Fund and modern apprenticeship guarantee are accessible to the full range of Scotland's young people and consider the needs of those who face the most serious challenges in accessing the labour market. We want to ensure no-one is left behind.

We will establish a Fairer Scotland Commission, to consider the most effective action to tackle poverty, equality and social exclusion in Scotland. We will also establish a Scottish Centre for Financial Inclusion to guide the most excluded and vulnerable people through the maze of opportunities and support available to

them, so that everyone in Scotland has the means to manage and get the most from their resources. We firmly believe that credit unions play an important role in offering alternative financial services to people living on low incomes and that they protect people when they fall on hard times. Scottish Labour therefore sees a key role for credit unions in our strategy to help lift people out of poverty.

We will deliver robust mechanisms to monitor the progress being made in tackling poverty – particularly child poverty – across Scotland.

Scottish Labour is committed to supporting older people in a way that respects their dignity and recognises them as active citizens and not just as recipients of services. We want to challenge isolation at every turn, supporting instead the active participation of older people. We will sustain the concessionary travel scheme and better link it to community transport initiatives. We are also committed to ensuring the needs of older carers of adult children with disabilities are properly identified and addressed.

Scottish Labour recognises the particular role of kinship carers in preventing vulnerable young people going into care and we will establish minimum standards

“We very much welcome Scottish Labour’s commitment on Community Transport. It will be a major step forward in enabling those older and disabled people who can’t use or don’t have mainstream bus services, to use their concession on the community and voluntary transport services which do meet their mobility needs and give them access to basic services.”

John MacDonald

*Director for Scotland,
Community Transport Charity*

for the assessment and support of children in kinship care. For too long, there has been a postcode lottery in crucial financial and other support for kinship carers. Scottish Labour is committed to sitting down with local authorities and the UK government to resolve this frustrating and unacceptable situation.

We also know that effective support for carers can reduce the need for more expensive care services later on. We recognise the many challenges facing the range of carers in Scotland and want to continue funding pathways for carers’ information, recognising the crucial role of carers’ centres in providing information and support. We will work to ensure that information for carers continues to be as accessible as possible.

We are committed to supporting grandparents through the Grandparents’ Charter and will, amongst other things, ensure that grandparents and other family members are given due consideration in the adoption or fostering process.

Scottish Labour will strengthen the range of social work provision to help those who require support and protection in our communities.

Supporting the third sector

Scottish Labour values the role of those who work within the third sector and recognises the pressures they face during times of financial constraints. We are fully committed to developing opportunities for investment in the third sector - through the Scottish Future Jobs Fund and restarting ProjectScotland, for example - so that all young people can contribute to their communities. Scottish Labour will also work with third sector trade unions, staff representatives and organisations to ensure that jobs and fair working conditions are sustained during uncertain times.

We will work in partnership with and encourage support for third sector organisations competing for public sector contracts, continuing to invest in capacity building and practical support to ensure there is a level playing field with the private sector. In particular, we will ensure that government procurement makes effective use of community benefit clauses, Article 19, and gives due weight to good working practices, employability approaches, local employment and the living wage. We will also work to ensure the third sector has a clear voice by standardising the participation of the sector in Community

Planning Partnerships.

Scottish Labour recognises the critical role of volunteering in supporting communities, harnessing the talents of individuals and groups and offering opportunities for skills development and inclusion. We will refresh the current volunteering strategy to update its priorities, to remove barriers to volunteering and to ensure that the necessary leadership is present to meet the demand for volunteering opportunities. We want to increase the opportunities for productive volunteering options, not just in the third sector but also in the private and public sectors.

Championing equality, celebrating diversity

Scottish Labour is committed to ensuring we support all of Scotland's people through tough times. We know that many types of inequality are interconnected and that is why we are committed to ensuring we consider how all of our policies and plans impact upon the diverse people of Scotland. We will develop strong guidance for the effective implementation of the public duties under the Equality Act. We want to ensure gender, race, religion, sexuality, age and disability are not barriers to accessing public services, employability or training.

As part of this approach we will maintain the Equality Unit and aim to ensure that all public information is accessible to all people.

As we work to prioritise jobs, get people back to work and get Scotland moving again, we are determined to ensure that women are able to share equally in the new opportunities that become available, especially through support for childcare. We will ensure that the Scottish Government takes the lead in this area, giving clear direction to public bodies on equal pay and supporting family-friendly employment policies that take into account the needs of those with caring responsibilities. We will also ensure that our key employment policies, like the Scottish Future Jobs Fund and apprenticeship guarantee, open up opportunities for women in sectors and industries where men have traditionally dominated.

Scottish Labour recognises the contribution of disabled people to our economy and country and we are committed to supporting people with disabilities to realise their potential and to live as independently as possible. We will appoint a Disabilities Champion to drive this agenda forward. We will improve mobility and access for people with disabilities,

including extending concessionary travel to those on the lower rate of the Disability Living Allowance, ensuring that community transport initiatives can use the concessionary travel scheme, looking at the concessionary travel reimbursement rate for non-profit transport operators and ensuring that the companions of the deaf-blind can access free train travel in Scotland.

Scottish Labour will encourage self-directed support for people living with disabilities and will support the development of personalised care, whilst ensuring that any new measures do not lead to deterioration in other areas of support.

Scottish Labour will tackle racial or religious prejudice, intolerance and discrimination, not only because of the impact on the lives of those who experience it, but because it holds us back as a nation. We will support initiatives to tackle racial and religious discrimination in the workplace and in communities and will continue support for schemes that celebrate the diversity of Scotland's culture and its people. Scottish Labour will conduct a review of the Scottish Refugee Integration Strategy to reflect on the effectiveness of current action and to explore how integration work can be

sustained and developed.

Scottish Labour wants to end the unjust situation that has seen gay men, who were previously prosecuted for consensual acts, continue to suffer the prejudice caused by these convictions - long after the offences themselves have been decriminalised. We will investigate the best way to implement the 'Alli Amendment' in Scotland, to give religious organisations that want to, the freedom to hold civil partnerships in their buildings for the first time. We also believe that the time is now right to consult on options to provide genuine equality for same-sex couples and their families, by addressing the different status of civil partnership and marriage. We are clear – Scotland shouldn't be left behind on these issues.

Working with local government

Scottish Labour knows that local authorities have a crucial role to play in designing and delivering local services and driving the economy forward and we are committed to working in partnership to deliver a stronger Scotland. That is why we will deliver a new process of consultation through which an accord between Scottish central and local government will be delivered, based on the principles of mutual

respect, transparency and accountability to all stakeholders. We will aim to deliver an accord that is more strategically focussed and underpinned by national goals that lend themselves to local priorities.

Developing a social dialogue and partnership between the Scottish Government, COSLA, trade unions and the voluntary sector will be central to ensuring local services are delivered in the most effective manner. We will therefore develop a structure which promotes partnership working at a strategic level in local government, so that transparency in decision-making is improved and the future development of local government across Scotland is jointly shared by all social partners.

Just as Scottish Labour in government would prioritise economic growth, we will ensure that economic development becomes a statutory duty of local government. To incentivise economic development at the local level, Scottish Labour will ensure that local authorities can retain a proportion of the business rates raised through increased economic activity. We will also provide cities with new powers and responsibilities to drive growth and regeneration and will create a new City Growth Fund to support our cities.

“It is very encouraging to see formal policies like Scottish Labour’s First Foot Mortgage Indemnity Scheme now coming forward in response to consistent calls from HFS for support in developing new responsible ways to underwrite higher loan to value lending”

Jonathan Fair

*Chief Executive,
Homes for Scotland (HFS)*

Scottish Labour will freeze the council tax for the next two years, ensuring that the freeze is sustainably funded. But whilst we deliver this support, we know that local authorities cannot afford for a single penny to be wasted. Whilst some local authorities have been on a forward footing on shared services – from sharing backroom functions to delivering joint frontline services – the agenda has often lacked momentum and drive at the centre. We believe that the Scottish Government has a key role to play in fostering a culture in which joint working thrives. Scottish Labour will introduce the reforms required to deliver the intended benefits of shared services, including strengthening the procurement guidance to facilitate agreements between public service organisations.

Scottish Labour will abolish the failed Scottish Futures Trust, whilst retaining some of its functions within the Infrastructure Investment Unit. There will be a level playing field for investment and we will use all available finance mechanisms, including prudential borrowing, to deliver suitable, sustainable funding to get Scotland’s public building programme moving again.

Planning, at both local and national level, plays a critical role in economic growth and

economic benefit should be one of the key considerations when making planning decisions. We want to see a culture in planning that tries to assist economic growth and sustainable development, whilst also taking into account other factors, such as the impact on communities. Scottish Labour will work closely with local government to carry out a 'health check' on the recent changes to the planning system, updating the National Planning Framework with wide input from industry, to ensure that it is delivering for Scotland.

We believe firmly in the principle of local democracy and will standardise participation in Community Planning Partnerships, ensuring that there is a diversity of voices heard in community planning processes.

"For a long time, I've been conscious of the negative impact modern life has had on our natural environment. A life without cars or electricity would now be unthinkable, but we need to find a more sustainable way to support this lifestyle.

"That's why, over eight years ago, I jumped at the opportunity to install a small-scale domestic windmill. And I must say, it's very satisfying to know that whilst I'm doing my bit to cut pollution, my windmill is also well on the way to paying for itself.

"In Scotland, we really need to diversify our energy generation, ensuring that everyone across Scotland - from those on the lowest incomes, to those in the most remote corners of our country - can take advantage of the clean, green technologies that cut fuel bills and tackle climate change.

"I'm hoping that a future Scottish Government will deliver a package of support that will widen access to the low carbon, energy-generation technology that I already enjoy."





Chapter Six

A Greener Scotland

Fay Young invested in a small windmill almost a decade ago. She hopes that other people across Scotland will also be able to access renewable technologies in the years to come.

Labour's Vision

“Climate change is one of the single biggest long-term threats to the prosperity and wellbeing of our people. We know now, more than ever, that if our economy is to stand up to the challenges to come, it must be sustainable and responsive to our natural environment. As Scottish Labour works to rebuild Scotland’s economy, we realise there is an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that the starting principles of our economic future are cleaner and greener than the foundations of the past.

“The drive to build prosperity should not jeopardise Scotland’s natural resource base for future generations. But we must also recognise that our natural resources can in fact fuel the prosperity of future generations.

“That is why Scottish Labour will deliver a landmark Green New Deal, which will not only create new jobs and generate revenue in our communities, but will see renewable energy technology become a reality in homes across Scotland.

“We also want to be sure that those on lower incomes are not left behind as environmental improvements are brought on track. Scottish Labour believes that everyone has the right to share in the green revolution that will sweep Scotland.”

Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader

Our promises to Scotland

- Prioritise the creation of green jobs, aiming for up to 60,000 by 2015
- Maintain funding levels for the Climate Challenge Fund
- Create a new Commission for Rural Scotland to report on protecting rural communities
- Ensure that Scotland's forests remain in public ownership
- Create 300 new jobs, 750 traineeships, and generate new revenue for local communities through Scottish Labour's Green New Deal

“The SFHA welcomes the Green New Deal and any initiative that seeks to lower carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty. We believe that, while the challenges of climate change and fuel poverty are daunting, they also represent a significant opportunity. If initiatives to harness the potential to develop small scale renewable electricity and heat projects can be developed on a large scale then they will create much needed employment and training opportunities. The SFHA and its members are keen to assist and well placed to do so.”

Mary Taylor

Chief Executive, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations

A Green economy

Scottish Labour's priority is to rebuild our economy, but to do so in a way that ensures it becomes fairer and cleaner. We are determined to ensure Scotland comes out of the recession stronger, with our economy making the historic switch from high to low carbon and our people trained in the industries of the future. We know that the next industrial revolution will be in the green low and zero carbon industries. We will therefore prioritise the creation of green jobs in renewable technologies – aiming for up to 60,000 by 2015 – and will speed up the granting of planning consent and build export opportunities to achieve this.

Scottish Labour will introduce a Green New Deal for Scotland. We will fit at least 10,000 homes with community and household renewables, such as solar panels and community heat and power schemes. This will provide a new revenue stream for housing associations, co-operatives and local authorities through the feed-in tariff. Scottish Labour's Green New Deal will create 300 new manufacturing and installation jobs, as well as around 750 training places.

We will continue to develop the Central Scotland Green Network, with a focus on

opportunities to promote environmental volunteering and training for young people. We will also work to attract £1.5 billion of investment from the Green Investment Bank and campaign to ensure that it is headquartered in Scotland.

Scotland's transport choices need to be greener. Scottish Labour's transport policies will therefore encourage people to switch from private cars to public transport, support the electrification of cars – starting with the phasing in of hybrid or electric cars in the government's vehicle fleet – and encourage walking and cycling, with an increased proportion of the transport budget channelled towards active travel.

Tackling climate change

We believe that the challenge of climate change should be used as an opportunity to kick-start new ways of thinking – from taking collective, wide-ranging action to reduce our carbon emissions, to finding more efficient ways of delivering public services. Scottish Labour is committed to achieving the 42 per cent carbon emissions reduction target by 2020 and the 80 per cent target by 2050, as laid out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. To support this, we will maintain funding for the Climate Challenge Fund and will increase

its effectiveness. We will also strengthen public engagement.

We believe that a strong public duty is required to help drive change. This needs to include mandatory reporting and should identify the contribution that could be made by encouraging greener workplaces and work practices.

Improving our environment

Environmental justice demands that nobody is left behind as we work to improve Scotland's environment. From those living in the most deprived urban areas, to those in remote rural communities, everyone in Scotland has the right to breathe fresh air and live in a clean, healthy community.

In recent years there has been some success in increasing recycling rates and reducing the disposal of waste in landfill. The potential opportunities garnered from waste reduction and finding opportunities to extract value from discarded materials is increasingly being realised and now creates a significant number of secure jobs across Scotland. Scottish Labour will make further investments in this area in the years to come and we have an ambition to move towards a zero waste Scotland.

We will consider the role council tax incentives could have in achieving this and will introduce a series of gradually phased-in bans on recyclable and biodegradable material going to landfill. We also aim to introduce 'recycling on the go', with separated recycling bins on streets and in shopping centres.

We will support new allotments and community gardens in both rural and urban areas, as a way of promoting affordable local food production. This will help set the expectation that green procurement is the norm, particularly for food provision, and help to generate new markets and supply chains for low carbon products.

Scottish Labour will explore the possibilities for restoring Scotland's peat lands and will continue to support new tree planting as part of our climate change strategy, looking particularly at tackling the obstacles to increasing tree and woodland cover. We will support the proposals for a Central Scotland Orchard. We will also encourage the use of wood products in the construction industry and will only purchase wood and wood-fibre based products from sources which are legal and sustainable, through schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council. We will assess the effectiveness of the policy,

ensuring that necessary controls are in place throughout the whole timber supply chain. We will continue to support the development of renewables on the national forestry estate and will focus on promoting opportunities for local communities to develop projects. Scottish Labour will also ensure Scotland's forests remain in public ownership.

On land reform, Scottish Labour will review the groundbreaking legislation we introduced in the early years of the Parliament, with a view to promoting new opportunities for communities to own and manage their assets. We will also look at the new Land Use Strategy, to ensure it helps to reconcile competing pressures for different land uses and will review flood management funding, to ensure that defences can be put into place more quickly. Given that Scotland is not currently meeting its biodiversity targets, we will use the opportunity of the 2012 Rio +10 sustainable development conference to refresh the Scottish Government's sustainable development strategy. We will develop a pilot measure of sustainable development, complimentary to GDP.

We will also continue to encourage long distance walking and cycling routes. We are supportive of the proposal for a John

Muir Way from his birthplace in Dunbar to our first National Park in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, to celebrate his centenary in 2014.

Greener, cleaner energy

Scottish Labour will work to ensure Scotland is a net exporter of electricity to the rest of the UK, Ireland and Europe. Scotland is uniquely placed to reap the environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy generation and we will therefore aim for at least 80 per cent of our electricity to come from renewables by 2020. We will set up Energy Scotland to drive forward Scotland as a renewables world leader.

To achieve this, we will seek to expedite applications for new renewable energy developments within nine months of them being lodged. We will also deliver a Green New Deal to tackle fuel poverty and drive down carbon emissions, which will offer whole-house energy efficient retrofits and microgeneration opportunities for 10,000 homes and businesses, creating jobs, traineeships and business opportunities for local firms across Scotland. Scottish Labour will consider how else to best use the new feed-in tariff to promote the expansion of household renewables and investigate

further council tax discounts, grants and incentives for householders and businesses who make green changes.

Scottish Labour will create a policy framework to further encourage private sector investment in offshore wind, wave and tidal power. We will support the continuing contribution of the offshore oil and gas industry to our economy, whilst also seeking the transfer of skills and expertise in offshore renewables. We are committed to doubling the Saltire Prize.

We know that Scotland's communities are the ideal platform for small-scale energy generation and we therefore aim to increase the production, distribution and use of community-scale heat and power, asking the Energy Savings Trust to continue a loan scheme to allow businesses and local authorities to take advantage of cost-effective opportunities. We also know that local bulk purchasing leads to lower prices and so we will also support community organisations, co-ops and social enterprises who pursue community renewable projects. We will also require local authorities to produce heat maps, to assist in the identification of potential community and public renewable heat schemes.

Scottish Labour is determined to drive

“I welcome Scottish Labour’s commitment to keeping Scottish Water in public ownership and the plans to use its estate to reduce carbon emissions through renewable energy. A possible way forward would be the development of hydro electric schemes in redundant reservoirs, and biogas development from sewage treatment plants.”

Ann Milnes Roberts

Former Editor,

Financial Times Global Water Report

energy efficiency within our energy system and will tackle heat loss in energy generation by seeking to introduce schemes to capture and use surplus heat from the power stations via new ‘smart’ heat grids. We are also supportive of the development of renewables in Scottish Water’s estate, and will enhance powers so that it can fulfil its renewable energy potential and use its assets more effectively.

We will not consent to new, non-replacement fossil-fired power stations unless they can demonstrate effective carbon capture and storage technology from the outset. We will also encourage operators of conventional power stations to develop opportunities to minimise heat waste.

Animal welfare

Scottish Labour believes that more action is needed on wildlife crime and we will ensure that the move to a single police force is used as an opportunity to deliver concerted action across Scotland to tackle this issue. We will seek to ban snaring, following a consultation on the issue and will toughen up regulations with regard to the welfare of racing greyhounds. We will also take measures to implement welfare legislation, including the use of animals in circuses, horses in livery yards and a review of pet

vending regulations.

We will do all we can to boost Scotland's successful tourism industry by promoting responsible wildlife tourism and maximising on the opportunities to promote positive conservation messages.

Supporting our rural and island communities

Scotland's rural communities - along with being key to Scotland's cultural and social heritage - play an important role in our economy and will be a vital component in getting Scotland through the tough times. Scottish Labour will establish a new Commission for Rural Scotland, to report on how best to ensure remote, rural and island communities are not left behind as cuts to front-line services take hold, and can instead continue to contribute to building Scotland's prosperity..

To support our rural communities, Scottish Labour will lobby the UK Government to reverse the VAT rise on fuel. We will campaign to support the retention of the universal service obligation, which ensures rural communities have access to decent mail services and will also work with communities to protect and develop local post offices in rural locations.

Scottish Labour will support rural business by ensuring that training opportunities exist for industries important to rural areas, such as land management, textiles, tourism and renewables industries. We will also explore what more can be done to support local businesses in rural communities, including bringing forward a broadband strategy to extend and improve the quality of broadband and mobile coverage in remote and economically fragile rural areas.

We will support fairness for food producers through campaigning for reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy. We will work to support a viable, community-focussed fishing industry. We will also look both at the needs of communities who rely on fishing and will work in partnership to develop a sustainable vision for our fishing industries for the future.

Scottish Labour will ensure that the review of support for farming considers how to deliver a range of benefits for our communities, including the provision of good quality food, well-maintained land, a scenic and biodiverse environment, well-managed water quality and climate change mitigation. We will continue to work to support farming in less-favoured areas and seek to use the Rural

Development Programme to support the development of cooperatives and support for processing and marketing for Scottish produce, to ensure rural communities gain added value from food production. Scottish Labour continues to support the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board as an important protector of decent wages in farming communities. On tenant farming, Scottish Labour will take action on rent review clauses and will address inheritance anomalies.

Scottish Labour will continue to support our crofting communities. We will reflect the strong views of crofters during the passage of the Crofting (Scotland) Act 2010 by not commencing the second register specified by the Act, and not commencing reporting by grazings clerks. We will focus instead on practical measures to support crofters in keeping their land management activities viable and helping them to find new economic activity.

“I was very disappointed when the Scottish Parliament threw out the movement to end the barbaric practice of setting snares. At the time, I said the only ray of hope would be the Scottish Labour Party coming out in favour of a ban and I am delighted to see a strong commitment on snaring in this manifesto.”

Brian May

*Queen guitarist and
animal rights campaigner*



"Since Kirsty first picked up the flute last year, she has barely put it back down. I've enjoyed watching her develop a love for performing and it's a joy to see her concentrate on learning a new tune.

"Kirsty's musical taste has also broadened since she started playing an instrument. Like most girls her age, she likes Justin Bieber. But she's started listening to bands like The Eagles or to soundtracks from musicals and she tries to work out the notes so that she can learn more songs.

"I've been worried by seeing stories on the news about access to music tuition for school children being cut. I'm hoping that this trend does not impact on her lessons, which she loves so much. Like all mums, I just want the best for my kids and I hope that Kirsty won't be the one to suffer as government cuts begin to bite. "Activities like music play a crucial part in children's development, helping their creativity, concentration and confidence. We should be encouraging our kids to develop positive interests, not holding them back."



Chapter Seven

Our Scotland

Janice Flynn from Barrhead has watched her nine year old daughter Kirsty's confidence flourish since she started learning how to play a musical instrument. She is worried that budget cuts will lead to a negative impact on access to music for her daughter.

Labour's Vision

"From Burns in the 18th century, to T in the Park today, Scotland's cultural life is world-renowned. The talent of Scottish artists continues to shape the world around us.

"But it is perhaps the most difficult period in our recent history to argue the case for investment in art and culture. But Labour believes that culture matters.

"Scottish Labour believes that we need strong leadership in this area more than ever as we pass through the difficult times. Not only has the accessibility of arts, music and culture defined our nation's heritage and culture, it has enhanced the quality of our lives. Scotland has a strong and proud track record as a nation of creative talent and we must capitalise on this potential to become world leaders in the creative industries.

"Scotland's capacity for creative innovation is our ticket to economic growth. Investment in the creativity of our people is an investment in our future prosperity. And the vanguards of our heritage - from the Mining Museum in East Lothian to the National Museums and Galleries throughout Scotland - are key to boosting our tourism industry and attracting increasing numbers of visitors to Scotland.

"Our approach will be rigorous, from widening access to music tuition for our youngest citizens, to providing support for the creative industries at the highest level. We will nurture the creativity of Scotland to benefit all of our people."

Iain Gray, Scottish Labour Leader

Our promises to Scotland

- Deliver new jobs in the cultural sector by investing in the creative industries, with a Scottish Film Champion to promote collaboration between drama and film and drive forward new thinking as a first step
- Deliver Scotland's first joined-up music policy, ensuring that music is central to the school curriculum and delivering a new musical instrument fund for schools
- Modernise library services to expand the provision of superfast broadband and e-book lending
- Promote the widest possible access to the arts, by working to protect free admission to galleries and museums
- Protect the international development budget and deliver support for development education

“The Musicians’ Union warmly welcomes Labour’s commitment to ensuring making music and music tuition are embedded in the school curriculum. All children should have the opportunity to participate in music – it opens the mind, engages the imagination and enhances other learning. Instrumental music teaching has a crucial role to play in developing and nurturing the next generation of talented musicians and enriching the lives and futures of our young people.”

Sheena Macdonald

The Musicians’ Union Scotland and Northern Ireland

Growing our creative industries

The arts sector will be critical in creating the economic growth that will lift Scotland out of tough times. That is why Scottish Labour’s cultural policy will give priority to investment in the creative industries, devising a strategy for international promotion and delivering the new, skilled jobs that will be the fuel of Scotland’s economic recovery.

We will do all we can to develop Dundee as a hub for high-quality design, supporting the emergent and successful games industry in the city and the V&A project. Scottish Labour will establish a Music Investment Fund, modelled in discussion with the music industry, Creative Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, to support the growth of small and medium businesses in the music sector.

We also want to use the creative industries to encourage inward investment in Scotland. In particular, we will explore the best ways to support our film industry. We will appoint a Scottish Film Champion, to promote greater collaboration between drama and film production in Scotland, to attract fresh investment and to drive forward new thinking.

Nurturing Scotland's musical talent

Investing in the skills of our young people is central to Scottish Labour's vision for Scotland. Their skills are the foundation on which our future prosperity rests and their creative talents are no exception.

It is our ambition to give all children - no matter their background - the opportunity to access music tuition and musical instruments.

We will continue the Youth Music Initiative, ensuring that all children in P5 and P6 have access to music tuition. We will also establish a Musical Instrument Fund, to give assistance to those families who need it to access a musical instrument for their children's tuition.

Scottish Labour also aims to carry out a National Music Audit, to identify variations in music provision at local authority level and build on the best practice of already-successful programmes across Scotland. Scottish music is recognised world-wide for contemporary, classical and traditional music. Our policy will address how to support excellence in music.

Culture matters

Scottish Labour will work to ensure that every person, no matter their background, can become involved in cultural activity.

We remain committed to free admissions to our museums and galleries and will work with local authorities to ensure the continuation of this policy, including creating better access to art collections of national significance.

We will build on the success of the National Theatre's £10 season, working with theatres and sponsors to provide reduced-rate tickets for theatre performances across Scotland. We will also consider the feasibility of establishing a National Youth Companies Unit in Creative Scotland and will review how incentives for philanthropic support for the arts can be strengthened.

Scottish Labour will explore the best way to support young artists and Scottish art graduates early in their professional careers, so that they can continue to work in Scotland and use their talents to enrich our local communities. Similarly, we will support community arts, recognising that they are a vital component of developing strong communities. We will also give public institutions a new right to borrow works of art from the national collection, so that more people can benefit from our national heritage.

We know that libraries are at the heart of many communities and we understand why people feel so passionate about protecting them during difficult economic times.

Scottish Labour recognises that libraries are a key way of achieving digital inclusion in Scotland and will do all we can to protect local services. We want to widen access to books and will prioritise the modernisation of library services, expanding the provision of superfast broadband, delivering free wi-fi for workers on the move and enhancing opportunities for e-book lending. We will also protect mobile libraries in rural areas. We will work with Glasgow City Council to secure funding for the Glasgow Women's Library, as it moves to become the Women's Library of Scotland.

Improving our communities

Over the last thirteen years Scotland's towns and cities have made great strides in recovering from the damage of the 1980s. Even as spending on capital projects becomes more constrained in the years ahead, Scottish Labour will continue to promote excellence in design and architecture, helping to foster civic pride and build world-class places in which people want to live and work.

Our aim is to ensure the very best standards of architecture and building design are met, in school-building projects and all new government-funded building programmes. We will seek to strengthen the skills and capacity of local authorities

to promote good design, and ensure that quality and excellence are at the heart of the planning system.

Scotland's languages

Scottish Labour is proud to celebrate the diversity of Scotland's many languages, including Gaelic, British Sign Language (BSL) and the many languages spoken by those new to our country.

We will support opportunities for learning Gaelic, including removing the obstacles to Gaelic education and increasing the number of Gaelic medium teachers where there is strong parental demand. We will encourage Gaelic broadcasting, Gaelic arts and increased visibility for the Gaelic language in Scotland. We will support the work of the Gaelic college in Skye, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and will encourage new learners of the language, along with supporting those native speakers from the traditional Gaelic heartlands and beyond.

Scottish Labour recognises that there is a shortage of BSL interpreters in Scotland. We have an ambition to increase support for those learning and using BSL.

A sporting Scotland

Participating in sporting activity uncovers talent and develops skills that are vital to our nation's future success, including nurturing confidence, teamwork and drive.

The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games offer an unprecedented opportunity to showcase our nation to the world. But the Games also offer a unique opportunity to showcase sport to Scotland's young people. Scottish Labour will work with partners to ensure that the Commonwealth Games are as accessible as possible to Scotland's younger generation and will introduce Commonwealth Legacy Schools, to ensure that the legacy of the Games is an investment in Scotland's future talent.

Protecting the integrity of Scotland's professional sport is vital. We will work with governing authorities to ensure that professional clubs are accountable to their stakeholders, run transparently and on sound financial principles, with greater involvement in our local communities and enhanced supporter representation. Scottish Labour will continue and enhance support for Supporters Direct, to give football fans a say in our national game.

We will continue to support Scotland's University of Sport at Stirling beyond 2011, to ensure our athletes have access to the support they need to become

“If we want sport to be a positive influence at the heart of our communities, it is vital that supporters are involved in decision-making at local sports clubs. Scottish Labour introduced Supporters Direct and their continued and enhanced support for the organisation is great news for football and sports fans across Scotland.”

Kenny Brannigan

Manager of Queen of the South

“Without the support of the music departments in all the schools I attended, I would have been deemed unteachable and wouldn’t have succeeded in the music business. That is why I am wholeheartedly behind Labour’s Youth Music Initiative and Musical Instrument Fund. Music develops focus and drive, is a source of income, fosters confidence and hones communication skills. Musical ability should be nurtured in the same way other skills and abilities are nurtured in children.”

Eddi Reader

Singer-Songwriter

sporting champions and to promote a nation-wide culture of sport and physical activity. Scottish Labour will also consult on bringing forward a Sport Bill within the lifetime of the next parliament, which will safeguard and improve the provision of opportunities for sport, leisure and physical activity for all people in Scotland.

An outward looking Scotland

Scottish Labour understands the worries of those facing economic uncertainty in Scotland. But we must not forget those around the world who face even harder times. Scotland’s innovative partnership with Malawi has been a huge success, engaging more than 85,000 Scots and Scottish Labour wants to continue this focus.

That is why we will protect Scotland’s investment in overseas development and will continue to work with Malawi and our partners in sub-Saharan Africa to support their development needs. Scottish Labour also recognises the excellent work that has been carried out by Development Education Centres across Scotland. We will support their programme of work by ensuring that 3 per cent of the development budget is used to support development education, in line with EU guidance. We will also ensure that Scotland continues to play its part in

responding to emergency situations around the world.

We know that fair trade is a model way to empower people, both in countries in the global South and in our own nation. Scottish Labour is committed to a Fair Trade Scotland and will encourage towns, cities, schools and universities to aim for fair trade status.



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