

Manifestos Analysis Grid

Policy Area	Topic	SNP	Scottish Labour	Reform UK	Scottish Conservatives	Scottish Liberal Democrats	Scottish Greens
Economy and Fiscal	Approach to economy	Expanding welfare without tax rises or new cuts, funded by economic growth (including a High Growth Unit)	Growth first industrial strategy in key sectors, underpinned by stable, long-term fiscal planning	Focus on private sector led economic expansion	Emphasis on productivity through market-led growth	Support fair growth and stable public finances through a new industrial and skills strategy	Redistribution to reduce inequality and rebalance the economy
	Tax approach	'Stable' tax approach (no change to current income tax rates, simplified system); Add two new council tax bands	Low-change tax approach (five-year income tax freeze, growth-linked future cuts); Reform council tax	Extensive tax cuts to stimulate growth; cancel planned increase to council tax	Low tax, cutting government waste (Scottish Agency of Value and Efficiency)	Low change tax approach (aim to align income tax in future if feasible); Reform council tax	Wealth and land taxes to fund public investment; Replace Council Tax with Residential Property Tax, two new council tax bands
	Investment	Investment in public services specifically the workforce, housing and education and transport.	Targeted investment to boost productivity and regional economies	Deregulation and reduced public spending	Deregulation to stimulate private investment	<i>Strengthen trade and investment through a bespoke UK-EU customs union;</i> Fund capital investment that will drive growth	Large-scale green infrastructure and transition spending

Health	NHS Reform	Capacity led NHS recovery approach (more staff, modernised delivery, and expand community access).	Productivity driven NHS reform (modernisation alongside expanded staffing and community care)	Market driven NHS reform approach (expanding private sector use, boosting capacity, and cutting bureaucracy to speed up treatment).	Capacity and choice NHS approach (using independent providers, expanding system capacity, and reducing bureaucracy to speed up treatment).	Service first NHS approach (more local staff, faster GP access, and strengthen community care).	Public first, prevention-led health approach (expanding universal services, boosting community and mental health care).
	Workforce	Increase workforce, focus on rural and island communities; £530m to recruit more family doctors.	Expand NHS workforce and improve retention	Workforce plan to train more doctors and nurses; Encourage more staffing through tax cuts	No commitment to changing or increasing workforce	Increase staffing and modernise delivery (10-year plan, upgraded local facilities, 900 new multidisciplinary roles, neighbourhood teams).	Grow workforce and strengthen staffing (1 GP per 1,000 people, nurse-to-patient ratios, more nurses, <i>Automatic Leave to Remain for medical graduates</i>).
	Prevention	Shift balance of care to community activity and early intervention and prevention; <i>Capped Food Pricing for 20-50 essential foods to tackle health inequalities.</i>	Targeted early intervention measures	Shift to a prevention strategy in persistent health inequalities (no details)	Health prevention framed around lifestyle change, screening, and early diagnosis to reduce long-term pressures.	Take pressure off NHS by promoting preventative health	Prevention first approach to population health

	Access	Expand community based care and treatment pathways (walk in GP clinics, 'one stop shops')	Reduce waiting lists through targeted recovery plans and improve access to quality local care	Focus on rapid access and system efficiency	Reduce waiting times through increased capacity; Expand diagnostic and treatment access	Expand community based rural care pathways, including walk-in mental health support	Expand mental-health services and reduce inequalities through community investment
Energy	Supply	Renewables first strategy for Scotland's energy future	Large expansion of renewables and grid upgrades; Include nuclear as part of long-term energy mix	Expand North Sea oil and gas extraction	Expand domestic oil and gas production Accelerate nuclear development	Renewable first strategy, focus on Scotland's infrastructure and skills; Include nuclear as part of long-term energy mix	Rapid phase out of fossil fuels, focus on renewables
	Regulation	Call to transfer energy powers to Holyrood including energy regulation	Strengthen regulation to support affordability and security	Roll back Net Zero commitments; Deregulate energy markets to reduce costs	Reduce regulatory barriers to energy infrastructure	No discussion of energy regulation	Call to transfer energy powers to Holyrood including energy regulation
	Cost	Independence will reduce energy costs	Energy efficiency & warm homes discount	Cost of energy due to mismanagement of energy supply in Scotland; no solution proposed	Return offshore wind revenues to households (£100 energy bill discount); Scottish produced energy will reduce costs	Cut bills through large-scale home insulation and clean heat rollout	Cheaper electricity from renewables compared with volatile global gas prices
	Impact on people and places	Just transition support for workers and regions.	Just transition that creates jobs and energy security;	Moving away from oil and gas impacting workers in Northeast,	Affordable Transition Fund; energy projects	Stronger community-benefit rules for renewables;	Public ownership of renewables and grid assets

			Transition plans for key industrial sites	therefore no Just Transition	based on community support	green-infrastructure investment and a just transition for workers	
Justice	Approach to justice	Focus on rehabilitation and reducing reoffending	Safer communities through policing, prevention and victims' rights	Stronger sentencing and deterrence measures	Tougher sentencing and stronger enforcement	Reduce reoffending through education, community sentences and rehabilitation	Tackle inequalities and underlying harms; reinvest in services that prevent crime
	Justice infrastructure	Upgrade justice infrastructure to improve outcomes	Reform justice processes to improve outcomes	Focus on rapid justice and system efficiency	Prioritise victims' rights and public protection	Expand mental health support across policing and prisons.	Modernise justice estates and expand community justice
	Policing	Modernise policing and justice infrastructure	New strategic policing priorities	Expand police powers and enforcement capacity	Increase police numbers and visibility	Stronger local, democratically accountable community policing	Reduce police call outs by shifting mental health crises from Police Scotland to trauma-informed community crisis services
	Community/place	Expand early-intervention and youth justice support	Strengthen community policing and visibility	No discussion of community/place	Prevent closure of local police stations	Strengthen community safety (e.g. action on retail crime and violence)	Expand restorative justice and community safety models
	Prevention/incarceration	Social Impact Partners for preventative and early intervention	Expand prevention and early-intervention programmes	Higher sentencing, increase prison capacity	Harsher sentencing, including tougher measures for under-25s and repeat violent offenders	Early intervention and mentorship for young people	Reduce reliance on incarceration; Invest in prevention and social support

Social care	Approach to social care	Rights-based social care with national oversight and fair work	Fair work, person centred social care with stronger standards	Tighten eligibility and focus on essential services	Improve standards and accountability with greater local decentralisation	Rights-based, person centred care with stronger local decision-making	Public, rights-based care system
	Operating models	Improve social care through integration, flow and community based support.	Reform National Care Service to improve delivery	Reduce bureaucracy in care commissioning; Streamline care provision and reduce costs	Modernise care delivery models; Improve efficiency and targeted support	Invest in social care and community care	End outsourcing of social care - private care homes into public or community ownership
	Workforce	Improve workforce pay and conditions through collective bargaining	Raise pay and conditions for care workers	No mention of social care workforce	Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy, but little social care specific discussion	Improve pay, conditions and progression through national bargaining and a career ladder	Fair pay and secure contracts for care workers
	Place based/local provision	Expand community-based care and support	Strengthen local, community based social care	Give councils greater flexibility and control over social care services	Local commissioning with stronger accountability	Expand community-based support and halve delayed discharge; Increase help for unpaid carers and young carers	Community-led and preventative care models
Transport	Infrastructure	Invest in rail electrification and ferry upgrades	Invest in rail modernisation and regional connectivity	Reduce transport regulation and planning delays	Improve road infrastructure and reduce congestion	Fix core connections with progress on A9/A96, ferries, and rural links.	Reduce car dependency through planning reform

	Public transport	Expand public transport integration and ticketing	Improve bus reliability and bring buses back under public control	Prioritise road upgrades and car-led mobility	Focus on ferries, and rural connections, reducing free access for asylum seekers and those committing antisocial behaviour	Revamp buses and rail with more reliable, frequent, and late-night services.	Major shift to public transport and active travel; Bring more buses back into public control
	Affordability	£2 bus fare cap	Treat transport as a public service focused on affordability	No mention of affordability	Focus on lack of affordability for motorists due to LEZ	Support affordability of electric vehicles	Free bus travel for everyone, no first-class tickets in Scotrail
	Investment	Investment for tram-trains, rural connectivity and ferries.	Creating a National Transport Connections Plan	Private and public partnership investment in ferries, harbours, roads, bus corridors	Private sector led transport investment (e.g. ferries and Caledonian Sleeper)	Investment in ferries, active travel	Investment in railways, Clyde Metro scheme,
	Low Carbon	Support active travel and low carbon transport; £2.5m bike repair scheme	No mention of low carbon transport	Scale back Net Zero transport requirements	Cut active travel budget	Support EV uptake and invest in modern, climate ready infrastructure; Invest in active travel	Invest in low carbon and community owned transport
Housing	Supply	Deliver 110,000 affordable homes by 2032 (70% social rent; 10% rural) with £110m for rural and key-worker housing;	Build 125,000 new homes through planning reform and targeted investment (no target date) Strong focus on	Building 15,000 homes per annum	Emphasis on boosting private sector building and homeownership; Expand ownership schemes rather than setting	Build 25,000 homes a year; Key-worker housing and empty homes reuse	Large-scale expansion of public and social housing; Build 17,500 social homes per year as part of a

		Tenement reform & heat in buildings.	affordability and expanding social housing;		national build targets		rights-based housing model
	Renters	Prioritise long-term affordable supply and protecting tenants; Expand rent controls and improve housing quality standards	Strengthened tenants' rights and regulation of private renting	Prioritise homeownership and deregulation of the rented sector, repeal new tenancy rules	Scrap rent controls	Re-establish social rent as a long-term option	National system of rent controls and stronger tenant protections
	Planning	'Enhance' the planning system for new housebuilding; Remove land transfer fees for people under 30 years old.	Planning reform will help to meet house building target	Simplify planning to meet house building targets	Reduce planning barriers and speed up approvals	Modernise planning and support rural and island housing needs.	New standards for all developments including local public services, green spaces and public transport
Education	Raising attainment	Close the attainment gap through targeted support <i>Welcome to School Bag for all Primary 1 pupils</i>	Raise core standards in literacy, numeracy, behaviour	Discipline-led, traditional academic model	Strengthen basics and academic standards, more testing and check ins	Whole system approach to supporting education	Tackling inequalities within the education system and a progressive approach to learning
	FE/Skills	Increase apprenticeships to 150,000 over the Parliament incl. 8,000 graduate apprenticeships	Align colleges and apprenticeships into a single skills pipeline	Focus on apprenticeships over universities, focus on ten key areas	Increase college funding and support apprenticeships; Allow 14–15-year-olds to attend college	Restore colleges and protect universities as core parts of the skills system.	Green Skills Hubs linking colleges, employers and unions; New Deal for Apprenticeships (fair pay, adult

							entry, recognition of prior learning)
	Workforce/teachers	Guarantee teacher jobs and maintain core classroom support (incl Additional Support Needs ASN support)	Increase teachers and support staff to stabilise classrooms	Increase staffing and improve retention through tax cuts	1,000 additional classroom assistants to support children with ASN	Strengthen classroom support with more pupil support assistants and specialist staff; Improve teaching conditions and end insecure contracts	Reduce teacher workload, end temporary contracts for teachers; National register of supply teachers
	Curriculum Reform	Reform qualifications and assessment system; Headteachers to have more say in their schools	Strengthen curriculum with knowledge focus and new national standards	Reboot of Curriculum for Excellence and expanded exclusion powers; Increased school autonomy with limited focus on ASN or inclusion	Expand school choice, review ASN mainstreaming, and replace CfE with a new Curriculum for Aspiration	No discussion of curriculum reform	Smaller classes, stronger ASN support, and more democratic, community based education models
	Early Years Support	Support focussed on food and clothes for school children; Primary 1 bag as a 'starter pack' based on baby box	Supporting wraparound care (before and after school).	No discussion of early years support	Support breakfast clubs for all primary school children	Fairer rates for childcare providers; 1,140 funded hours from 3rd birthday; Increase take up for eligible 2 year olds; Develop family support hubs	Universal 570 hours of funded childcare from 6 months to 2 years by 2031; Investment in early learning and childcare workforce; Free breakfast clubs in every primary
Social Security	Approach to social security	Promote dignity based social security delivery;	Strengthen anti-poverty measures and targeted support	Tighten eligibility and reduce welfare spending	Cut social security budget; Target support at those most in need	Reduce household pressures through childcare, housing and skills, and back	Support for universal basic income models; Rights based

		Focus on child poverty reduction and whole family support				UK-wide income security reforms	approach to income support
	Employment	Comprehensive review of Employability Support; increase number of apprenticeships by 150,000 over Parliament; create bespoke scheme for disabled young people to enter apprenticeships and employment	Link social security to wider economic and employment strategy	Strengthen work requirements	Emphasise work incentives and conditionality	Strengthen local service to support people locked out of work by conditions like long covid	Close disability employment gap through specialist employability services
	Access	Boost benefit take-up and cut access barriers	Improve access to benefits and reduce administrative barriers	Simplify benefits system and reduce administrative cost	Reduce fraud and improve system efficiency	Reduce waits, end sanctions, and improve access to key benefits	Expand social security generosity and accessibility Legally binding targets for the take up of social security benefits
	Carer and family support	Expand devolved benefits and introduce legal breaks and annual health checks for unpaid carers	Improving access to respite and support for unpaid carers; employment pathways	Improve lives of carers through the removing of the cliff edge of support	Employment service for carers	Increase support for unpaid carers and restore the full UC rate for under-25 parents	Strengthen carer support and triple the Young Carer Grant

	Support for children	Childcare from 9 months (means tested), £40 Scottish Child Payment (SCP) for newborns, and maintaining SCP for all other ages	Tax free childcare to £3,000; Expand childcare access and maintain SCP levels	No discussion of support for children	Two child limit for SCP; Expand funded childcare, provide childcare for working parents; Funding that follows the child model	Enhanced funded early learning and childcare; Support young parents through changing UC rules for under 25s	Parents can choose between funded childcare hours or supplementing income while they stay at home; Increase SCP to £40 with aim of £55 by 2030; Increase SCP for young parents under 25.
Local Government	Funding	No explicit funding discussion	Reform funding to stabilise local services; Community wealth building	Cut local government costs	Guarantee councils a fixed share of Scottish budget	Provide fair, multiyear funding and new local tax powers.	Radical local democracy and participatory budgeting; Community Wealth Fund
	Local powers	Strengthen community decision making and continue the Community Wealth Building Act	Strengthen local delivery and accountability	Reduce bureaucracy and centralise oversight	Local Power Bill; Increase local autonomy with performance oversight	Strengthen local economic development and high-street regeneration	Community-led service design and governance
	Service reform	Reform local taxation and fiscal power	Little discussion	Simplify structures and focus on core services	Improve efficiency and reduce administrative burdens; Support innovation in service delivery	Modernise planning and give councils a General Power of Competence.	Local government service reform, councils should be able to raise at least half their total funding needs locally