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## **BRIEFING | POLITICAL PARTY MANIFESTOS 2024**

This briefing sets out the key commitments in the Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat party manifestos for the General Election 2024 relevant to local government including local (parish and town) councils.

### **Conservative Party**

The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto: Clear Plan, bold action, secure future

<https://public.conservatives.com/static/documents/GE2024/Conservative-Manifesto-GE2024.pdf>

- We will maintain the National Living Wage in each year of the next Parliament at two-thirds of median earnings.
- Give young people the skills and opportunities they deserve by introducing mandatory National Service for all school leavers at 18, with the choice between a competitive placement in the military or civic service roles.
- The NHS Long-Term Workforce Plan will help shift care away from hospitals and into local communities. To support this, we will; expand Pharmacy First, including for menopause support, contraception and treatment for chest infections, freeing up 20 million GP appointments a year; build or modernise 250 GP surgeries, focused on areas of new housing growth; build 50 more Community Diagnostic Centres, including in underserved areas, resulting in an additional 2.5 million checks a year.
- Cut anti-social behaviour in town centres by rolling out Hotspot Policing, expanding community payback and legislating to evict social tenants who repeatedly disrupt their neighbours.
- Give every neighbourhood an additional police officer by recruiting 8,000 more police officers to patrol communities and catch criminals in every ward in the country. These full time, fully warranted officers will be dedicated to neighbourhood policing.
- We will urgently introduce Martyn's Law, in tribute to Martyn Hett, who was tragically killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017. This will ensure premises are better prepared for terrorist attacks by requiring them to take proportionate steps to mitigate risks.

- We will toughen up community sentencing by increasing the use of community payback and electronic tagging, so criminals pay their debt to society and communities witness justice being served. We will fund every police force to roll out Hotspot Policing, which has cut anti-social behaviour by up to 50% in some areas.
- We will also ensure our elected representatives get the protection needed to represent their constituents without fear.
- We will ensure democratic consent for onshore wind, striking the right balance between energy security and the views of their local communities. Our updated National Planning Policy Framework seeks to ensure local areas that host onshore wind directly benefit, including potentially through energy bill discounts.
- Deliver 1.6 million well-designed homes in the right places while protecting our countryside, permanently abolish Stamp Duty for homes up to £425,000 for first time buyers and introduce a new Help to Buy scheme.
- Introduce reforms to outdated EU red tape to better protect nature while enabling the building of new homes, new prisons and new energy schemes. Along with the reforms to the EU's bureaucratic environmental impact assessment regime that we have already started, these changes will speed up local and national infrastructure planning systems.
- Ensure any requirements to offset the impact of new infrastructure and homes on an area are proportionate, without compromising environmental outcomes.
- Reduce the cost of infrastructure by allowing quicker changes to consented projects.
- Ensure National Policy Statements are regularly updated.
- Focus the role of statutory consultees in the planning system on improving projects in line with clearer objectives, rather than piecemeal requirements that add delays.
- End frivolous legal challenges that frustrate infrastructure delivery by amending the law so judicial reviews that don't have merit do not waste court time.
- We will deliver 1.6 million homes in England in the next Parliament by:
  - Abolishing the legacy EU 'nutrient neutrality' rules to immediately unlock the building of 100,000 new homes with local consent, with developers required in law to pay a one-off mitigation fee so there is no net additional pollution.

- Delivering a record number of homes each year on brownfield land in urban areas. We will do this by providing a fasttrack route through the planning system for new homes on previously developed land in the 20 largest cities. Strong design codes will ensure this enables the gentle densification of urban areas, with new family homes and mansion-blocks on treelined streets built in the local character. We will look at extending 'full expensing' to the delivery of brownfield housing.
- Unlocking new urban regeneration schemes, by creating locally-led urban development corporations in partnership with the private sector and institutional investors. We will support the delivery of new quarters in Leeds, Liverpool and York alongside working with local leaders and the community to seize the opportunity of our ambitious Cambridge 2050 plan.
- Supporting local and smaller builders by requiring councils to set land aside for them and lifting Section 106 burdens on more smaller sites, while ruling out Labour's proposed 'community right to appeal' which would bring the planning system to its knees.
- Making sure local authorities use the new Infrastructure Levy to deliver the GP surgeries, roads and other local infrastructure needed to support homes. We will not allow these funds to be spent on community projects that bear no relation to support for new homes.
- Retaining our cast-iron commitment to protect the Green Belt from uncontrolled development, while ensuring more homes get built where it makes sense, like in inner cities. Our national planning protections mean there is never any top-down requirement for councils to remove Green Belt protection and these will remain in place.
- We will ensure councils have the powers they need to manage the uncontrolled growth of holiday lets, which can cause nuisance to local residents and a hollowing out of communities.
- We will support those who want to build or commission their own home by making the planning process simpler, while also supporting more community housing schemes.
- We will encourage the building of different forms of housing, particularly housing for older people.
- Building on our new powers for the police, we will further speed up the use and enforcement of powers to remove illegal traveller sites, while giving councils greater planning powers to prevent unauthorised development by travellers.

- Extend the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for another three years, delivering a further £540 million a year for communities across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Expand the Long-Term Plan for Towns, supporting a further nine towns in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with £20 million endowments to make long-term improvements over 10 years.
- Maintain the Community Ownership Fund for another three years, enabling community groups across Scotland, Wales The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto 2024 and Northern Ireland to continue accessing funding to save community assets which are at risk of being lost.
- Give our high streets a new lease of life and restore pride in place. We will change planning laws to support places to bring back local market days and regenerate defunct shopping centres. We will continue to make industry pay for removing chewing-gum from streets and raise the fines utility firms must pay when they create 'street scars' by not properly restoring roads and pavements after their works are completed. We will make fly tipping an offence that carries penalty points against your driving licence.
- Empower communities through devolution and new powers. By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal. We will offer our 'level 4' devolution powers to areas in England with a devolution deal and a directly elected leader, starting with the Tees Valley.
- Launch a Seaside Heritage Fund to support enhancements to our seaside heritage, preserving and restoring our coastal assets.
- We will protect residents from excessive council tax rises by ensuring that local people have the final say on council tax.
- We will improve standards in councils by making their performance more transparent through the Office for Local Government.
- We will always stand behind councils and look to recognise the unique circumstances of coastal areas in the allocation of grant funding to local authorities, alongside providing fairer funding for rural areas through the Rural Services Delivery Grant.
- We will work with Active Travel England to make it safer for people to walk or cycle, including projects like ensuring safe walking routes to schools and measures to protect pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users. Where new schemes are introduced, we will ensure they have local support first.

- We will continue to support museums and libraries across the country.
- We will invest in new technology to achieve our ambitious broadband targets for hard-to-reach areas.
- We will do more to boost the availability of affordable housing for local people in rural areas.
- We will ensure rural exception sites support local people into home ownership and create a dedicated taskforce in Homes England to deliver on the mission set out in their Rural Housing Statement to invest in regeneration and building high quality homes.
- We will ensure councils have the powers they need to manage the uncontrolled growth of holiday lets, which can cause nuisance to residents and a broader 'hollowing out' of communities.
- We will deliver our tree planting and peatland commitments through our Nature for Climate funding, and continuing our work to unlock private investment.
- Cut red tape that holds back the planting of trees in the planning system. This will identify particularly suitable areas for tree planting where processes and permits will be streamlined.
- Continue to work with landowners, charities and others to open up more 'access to nature' routes.
- We will prevent new waste incinerators being built, including those with recent permit approvals, revoking those where substantial construction has not taken place. This recognises the impact on local communities and that increased recycling rates will reduce the need for incineration capacity in the longer term.
- We will deliver our enhanced penalties for fly tipping, giving councils new tools to help tackle offenders.
- We will launch a review of the nighttime economy in England, looking at how to reverse the decline in pubs and clubs and how to make our towns and cities great places to go out.

## Green Party

The Green Party Manifesto: Real Hope. Real Change <https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/2024-manifesto-downloads/>

- Elected Greens will push for restoring local council budgets for public health.
- Provide 150,000 new social homes a year and end the so-called 'right to buy', so that these homes can belong to communities for ever.
- Introduce a Fairer, Greener Homes Guarantee to ensure warm, safe homes that are well insulated.
- Transform the planning system so new developments come with access to public services and green spaces are protected.
- Support local councils to provide good quality, affordable social housing in places where people live and work. And we will ensure large- scale developments are always supported by new infrastructure such as GP surgeries, bus services, cycling and walking networks, and extra places at nurseries and schools. All new developments should be accompanied by the extra investment needed to enhance local services too, and so that residents don't have to rely on cars to live a full life.
- We will transform the planning system to reduce the environmental impact of new construction and to require local authorities to spread small developments across their areas, where appropriate, rather than building huge new estates.
- Greens are also committed to protecting the Green Belt and ensuring everybody has easy access to a green space.
- Introduce a local-authority-led, street-by-street or area-based retrofit programme to insulate our homes, to provide non- fossil-fuel heat and start to adapt our buildings to the more extreme weather.
- To enhance the role of local authorities, elected Greens will push for local decisions about planning to be informed by a land use planning policy framework that seeks to balance various needs, such as to meet the challenge of the climate emergency, protect nature, grow enough food, and provide homes and energy. Each area's local plan will set viability levels for development and there will be no subsequent negotiation with developers.
- Greens will take back the power of building control from developers and invest in publicly accountable building inspectors and building control officers.

- Elected Greens know we can ensure secure energy and affordable bills by moving over to a range of renewable energy technologies, from wind to solar. We will also make it easier for communities to have ownership of their energy supply.
- Wind to provide around 70% of the UK's electricity by 2030.
- Communities to own their energy sources, ensuring they can use any profit from selling excess energy to reduce their bills or benefit their communities.
- The removal of regulatory barriers to community energy and investment in community energy by regional investment banks.
- We will end the de-facto ban on onshore wind. This, along with transforming the planning system, would support a massive increase in wind power and other renewable generation, whilst balancing our energy needs with our priorities, protecting biodiversity and our food supply.
- We will advocate for community renewables and champion the Local Electricity Bill to make it easier and cheaper for local renewable projects to become suppliers to their local communities.
- Strengthen and prevent any rollback of existing protections of the Green Belt, National Landscapes and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- Introduce a maximum 10:1 pay ratios for all private and public-sector organisations.
- We will seek to introduce a minimum wage of £15 an hour for all, no matter your age, with the costs to small businesses offset by increasing the Employment Allowance to £10,000.
- Re-evaluation of Council Tax bands to reflect big changes in value since 1990s.
- Removal of business rate relief on Enterprise Zones, Freeports, petrol stations and most empty properties.
- Push for local authority control and proper funding for bus services, to increase these in urban areas, and in rural areas ensure that there is a bus service to every village.
- We will empower local authorities to run bus services themselves if they see fit and provide a service that meets their community's needs. Cities and sparsely populated rural areas will need different solutions; we need to give them the flexibility and funding.

- A national strategic approach to identifying those lines and stations which could be re-opened. This should be led by regional and local government to ensure the most benefits.
- Introduce a Fair Politics Act to strengthen our democracy now. This legislation would do the following:
  - We will empower local authorities to run bus services themselves if they see fit and provide a service that meets their community's needs. Cities and sparsely populated rural areas will need different solutions; we need to give them the flexibility and funding.
  - A national strategic approach to identifying those lines and stations which could be re-opened. This should be led by regional and local government to ensure the most benefits.
- Repeal the anti-democratic Elections Act 2022, ending the need to provide voter-ID.
- Replace the first-past-the-post system for parliamentary and council elections with a fair and proportional voting system.
- Give 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote and to stand for parliament and other elected offices.
- Amend the Online Safety Act to protect democracy, and prevent political debate from being manipulated by falsehoods, fakes and half-truths.
- Advocate for ways to make politics more accessible to under-represented groups including women and disabled people. These could include proposals such as job sharing for MPs and a permanent access to elected office fund to help with the costs of standing for election.
- Ensure that local authorities across England are given the powers and resources they need. They will push for an increase in local government funding of £5bn per year to tackle the current under-funding crisis and enable local authorities to play a key role in the transition to a zero-carbon economy and protecting nature.
- Invest an extra £5bn over 5 years for local government spending on arts and culture to fund keeping local museums, theatres, libraries and art galleries open and thriving.
- Protect the night-time economy through a review of planning regulations and giving local authorities the powers to ensure there is space for cultural life.



- Exempt cultural events, including everything from theatre and museum tickets to gigs in local pubs, from paying VAT.
- Give local authorities discretionary powers to exempt socially and economically essential local enterprises from business rates.
- Enable local authorities to maintain key sporting infrastructure including pools and playing fields. These need to be used across all sections of the community to ensure sport is inclusive.
- Permit local authorities to invest in shares in professional sports clubs which operate in their area as a means of maintaining a connection between the club and its community. Any dividends paid to the authority must be reinvested into public sporting facilities or coaching programmes in the area.
- Police Services should be accountable to elected local government and to the communities where they work.
- Police and Crime Commissioners, and local councillors on police and crime panels, to have open access to the data needed to enable effective scrutiny of operational policing.
- A priority to end domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
- Local authorities are properly funded to deliver youth services including the youth workers who play a key role in keeping young people safe.

## Labour Party

The Labour Party Manifesto: Change <https://labour.org.uk/change/manifesto-accessibility/>

- Labour will bring in ‘Martyn’s Law’ to strengthen the security of public events and venues.
- Capitalised with £7.3 billion over the course of the next Parliament, the National Wealth Fund will have a remit to support Labour’s growth and clean energy missions, making transformative investments across every part of the country.
- In England, Labour will replace the business rates system, so we can raise the same revenue but in a fairer way. This new system will level the playing field between the high street and online giants, better incentivise investment, tackle empty properties and support entrepreneurship.
- Labour will end this chaos by developing a ten-year infrastructure strategy, aligned with our industrial strategy and regional development priorities, including improving rail connectivity across the north of England.
- The current planning regime acts as a major brake on economic growth. Labour will make the changes we need to forge ahead with new roads, railways, reservoirs, and other nationally significant infrastructure.
- We will set out new national policy statements, make major projects faster and cheaper by slashing red tape, and build support for developments by ensuring communities directly benefit. We will also update national planning policy to ensure the planning system meets the needs of a modern economy, making it easier to build laboratories, digital infrastructure, and gigafactories.
- Labour will make a renewed push to fulfil the ambition of full gigabit and national 5G coverage by 2030.
- We will fix an additional one million potholes across England in each year of the next parliament, funded by deferring the A27 bypass, which is poor value for money.
- Labour will support the transition to electric vehicles by accelerating the roll out of charge points.
- We will reform the broken system through new powers for local leaders to franchise local bus services, and we will lift the ban on municipal ownership. This will give local communities in England control over routes and schedules.

- Labour will give mayors the power to create unified and integrated transport systems, allowing for more seamless journeys, and to promote active travel networks.
- Labour will also develop a long-term strategy for transport, ensuring transport infrastructure can be delivered efficiently and on time.
- Labour will look for ways to strengthen the Post Office network, in consultation with sub-postmasters, trade unions and customers, and support the development of new products, services and business models, such as banking hubs, that will help reinvigorate the high street.
- We will immediately update the National Policy Planning Framework to undo damaging Conservative changes, including restoring mandatory housing targets.
- We will take tough action to ensure that planning authorities have up-to-date Local Plans and reform and strengthen the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Labour will support local authorities by funding 300 additional planning officers, through increasing the rate of the stamp duty surcharge paid by non-UK residents.
- We will ensure local communities continue to shape housebuilding in their area, but where necessary Labour will not be afraid to make full use of intervention powers to build the houses we need.
- Labour will take a brownfield first approach, prioritising the development of previously used land wherever possible, and fast-tracking approval of urban brownfield sites.
- Labour is committed to preserving the green belt which has served England's towns and cities well over many decades. Without changing its purpose or general extent, Labour will take a more strategic approach to greenbelt land designation and release to build more homes in the right places.
- The release of lower quality 'grey belt' land will be prioritised and we will introduce 'golden rules' to ensure development benefits communities and nature.
- In partnership with local leaders and communities, a Labour government will build a new generation of new towns, inspired by the proud legacy of the 1945 Labour government. Alongside urban extensions and regeneration projects, these will form part of a series of large-scale new communities across England.

- We will introduce effective new mechanisms for cross-boundary strategic planning. Labour will require all Combined and Mayoral Authorities to strategically plan for housing growth in their areas.
- We will give Combined Authorities new planning powers along with new freedoms and flexibilities to make better use of grant funding.
- We will strengthen planning obligations to ensure new developments provide more affordable homes; make changes to the Affordable Homes Programme to ensure that it delivers more homes from existing funding; and support councils and housing associations to build their capacity and make a greater contribution to affordable housing supply.
- Labour will prioritise the building of new social rented homes and better protect our existing stock by reviewing the increased right to buy discounts introduced in 2012 and increasing protections on newly-built social housing.
- Labour wants exemplary development to be the norm not the exception. We will take steps to ensure we are building more high-quality, well-designed, and sustainable homes and creating places that increase climate resilience and promote nature recovery.
- We will implement solutions to unlock the building of homes affected by nutrient neutrality without weakening environmental protections.
- Labour will transfer power out of Westminster, and into our communities, with landmark devolution legislation to take back control.
- In England, Labour will deepen devolution settlements for existing Combined Authorities. We will also widen devolution to more areas, encouraging local authorities to come together and take on new powers.
- Towns and cities will be able to take hold of the tools they need to pursue growth, create jobs, and improve living standards. Local areas will be able to gain new powers over transport, adult education and skills, housing and planning, and employment support. We will ensure those places have the strong governance arrangements, capacity, and capability to deliver, providing central support where needed.
- At the centre of our approach is a new statutory requirement for Local Growth Plans that cover towns and cities across the country. Local leaders will work with major employers, universities, colleges, and industry bodies to produce long-term plans that identify growth sectors and put in place the programmes and

infrastructure they need to thrive. These will align with our national industrial strategy.

- Labour will review the governance arrangements for Combined Authorities to unblock decision making.
- We will provide greater flexibility with integrated settlements for Mayoral Combined Authorities that can show exemplary management of public money. On housing and planning we will seek to consolidate powers to allow for improved decision making.
- Our approach will require partnership with local authorities. To provide greater stability, a Labour government will give councils multiyear funding settlements and end wasteful competitive bidding.
- Labour will provide 40 Change Labour Party Manifesto 2024 capacity and support to councils, and will overhaul the local audit system, so taxpayers get better value for money.
- We will also guarantee two weeks' worth of work experience for every young person, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges.
- Labour will create a partnership between business and trade unions, by implementing 'Labour's Plan to Make Work Pay: Delivering a New Deal for Working People' in full - introducing legislation within 100 days.
- We will consult fully with businesses, workers, and civil society on how to put our plans into practice before legislation is passed. This will include banning exploitative zero hours contracts; ending fire and rehire; and introducing basic rights from day one to parental leave, sick pay, and protection from unfair dismissal.
- We will strengthen the collective voice of workers, including through their trade unions, and create a Single Enforcement Body to ensure employment rights are upheld. These changes will improve the lives of working people across the entire UK.
- Labour will also make sure the minimum wage is a genuine living wage. Labour will also remove the discriminatory age bands, so all adults are entitled to the same minimum wage, delivering a pay rise to hundreds of thousands of workers across the UK.
- We will improve access to nature, promote biodiversity, and protect our landscapes and wildlife.

- To deliver our clean power mission, Labour will work with the private sector to double onshore wind, triple solar power, and quadruple offshore wind by 2030.
- Labour will deploy more distributed production capacity through our Local Power Plan. Great British Energy will partner with energy companies, local authorities, and co-operatives to install thousands of clean power projects, through a combination of onshore wind, solar, and hydropower projects.
- We will invite communities to come forward with projects, and work with local leaders and devolved governments to ensure local people benefit directly from this energy production.
- The Warm Homes Plan will offer grants and low interest loans to support investment in insulation and other improvements such as solar panels, batteries and low carbon heating to cut bills. We will partner with combined authorities, local and devolved governments, to roll out this plan.
- Labour will improve resilience and preparation across central government, local authorities, local communities, and emergency services. This includes formally working with all stakeholders in the Fire and Rescue services to inform policy and establish national standards.
- Labour will deliver for nature, taking action to meet our Environment Act targets, and will work in partnership with civil society, communities and business to restore and protect our natural world.
- Labour will create nine new National River Walks, one in each region of England, and establish three new National Forests in England, whilst planting millions of trees and creating new woodlands.
- Labour will expand nature-rich habitats such as wetlands, peat bogs and forests so families can explore and wildlife can thrive, including on public land.
- We will introduce a land-use framework and make environment land management schemes work for farmers and nature.
- Labour will restore neighbourhood policing with thousands of extra officers, and we will equip officers with the powers they need.
- We will no longer tolerate the violence against women and girls that stains our society.

- Labour will introduce a new Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, restoring patrols to our town centres by recruiting thousands of new police officers, police and community support officers, and special constables. Communities and residents will have a named officer to turn to when things go wrong.
- Fly-tippers and vandals will also be forced to clean up the mess they have created.
- Labour will intervene earlier to stop young people being drawn into crime, creating a new Young Futures programme with a network of hubs reaching every community. These hubs will have youth workers, mental health support workers, and careers advisers on hand to support young people's mental health and avoid them being drawn into crime.
- Labour will develop a new cross-government strategy, working with Mayors and Councils across the country, to put Britain back on track to ending homelessness.
- Our plan to Make Work Pay will transform the lives of working women, including by strengthening rights to equal pay and protections from maternity and menopause discrimination and sexual harassment.
- Labour will build on the Online Safety Act, bringing forward provisions as quickly as possible, and explore further measures to keep everyone safe online, particularly when using social media.
- We will deepen our democracy by reforming Parliament and devolving power to communities.
- To encourage participation in our democracy, Labour will improve voter registration and address the inconsistencies in voter ID rules that prevent legitimate voters from voting.
- We will increase the engagement of young people in our vibrant democracy, by giving 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in all elections.

## Liberal Democrat Party

The Liberal Democrat Party Manifesto: For a fair deal

[https://www.libdems.org.uk/fileadmin/groups/2\\_Federal\\_Party/Documents/PolicyPapers/Manifesto\\_2024/For\\_a\\_Fair\\_Deal\\_-\\_Liberal\\_Democrat\\_Manifesto\\_2024.pdf](https://www.libdems.org.uk/fileadmin/groups/2_Federal_Party/Documents/PolicyPapers/Manifesto_2024/For_a_Fair_Deal_-_Liberal_Democrat_Manifesto_2024.pdf)

- Supporting local and regional economic partnerships to coordinate development projects and boost growth in their areas.
- Establish a powerful new Worker Protection Enforcement Authority unifying responsibilities currently spread across three agencies – including enforcing the minimum wage, tackling modern slavery and protecting agency workers.
- Establish an independent review to recommend a genuine living wage across all sectors, with government departments and all other public sector employers taking a leading role in paying it.
- Establish national and local citizens' assemblies to give people real involvement in the decisions needed to tackle climate change.
- Maintaining the ban on fracking and introducing a ban on new coal mines.
- Building more electricity interconnectors between the UK and other countries to guarantee security of supply, located carefully to avoid disruption to local communities and minimise environmental damage.
- Empowering local authorities to develop local renewable electricity generation and storage strategies.
- Requiring large energy suppliers to work with community schemes to sell the power they generate to local customers.
- Guaranteeing that community benefit funds receive a fair share of the wealth generated by local renewables infrastructure.
- Increasing the Public Health Grant, with a proportion of the extra funding set aside for those experiencing the worst health inequalities to co-produce plans for their communities.
- Establishing a 'Health Creation Unit' in the Cabinet Office to lead work across government to improve the nation's health and tackle health inequalities.
- Improving access to blood pressure tests in community spaces.



- Appoint a Cabinet Minister for Children and Young People.
- Make all parental pay and leave day-one rights, and extend them to self-employed parents.
- Giving 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote.
- Requiring large employers to publish their parental leave and pay policies.
- Restoring proper community policing, where officers are visible, trusted and focused on preventing and solving crimes – especially rape and other violent crime.
- Scrapping Police and Crime Commissioners and replacing them with local Police Boards made up of councillors and representatives from relevant local groups, while investing the savings in frontline policing.
- Investing in youth services that are genuinely engaging and reach more young people.
- Set meaningful and binding targets to stop the decline of our natural environment and ‘double nature’ by 2050: doubling the size of the Protected Area Network, doubling the area of most important wildlife habitats, doubling the abundance of species and doubling woodland cover by 2050.
- Plant at least 60 million trees a year, helping to restore woodland habitats, increase the use of sustainable wood in construction, and reach net zero.
- Significantly increasing the amount of accessible green space, including protecting up to a million acres, completing the coastal path, exploring a ‘right to roam’ for waterways and creating a new designation of National Nature Parks.
- Ensuring new developments result in significant net gain for biodiversity, with up to a 100% net gain for large developments.
- Introducing a strategic Land and Sea Use Framework to effectively balance competing demands on our land and oceans.
- Empowering Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify a new Wild Belt for nature’s recovery.
- Increasing building of new homes to 380,000 a year across the UK, including 150,000 social homes a year.

- Expanding Neighbourhood Planning across England.
- Building ten new garden cities.
- Properly funding local planning departments to improve planning outcomes and ensure housing is not built in areas of high flood risk without adequate mitigation, by allowing local authorities to set their own fees.
- Encouraging the use of rural exception sites to expand rural housing.
- Trialling Community Land Auctions to ensure that local communities receive a fair share of the benefits of new development in their areas and to help fund vital local services.
- Encouraging development of existing brownfield sites with financial incentives and ensuring that affordable and social housing is included in these projects.
- Introducing 'use-it-or-lose-it' planning permission for developers who refuse to build.
- Ensure that all development has appropriate infrastructure, services and amenities in place, integrating infrastructure and public service delivery into the planning process.
- Tackle the funding crisis facing local authorities, including by providing multi-year settlements, boosting the supply of social housing, and forging a long-term, cross-party agreement on social care.
- Ensure local authorities have the powers and resources they need to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
- Ensure that gigabit broadband is available to every home and business, including in rural and remote communities, and support local bespoke solutions so that no property is left out.
- End the top-down reorganisation of councils and the imposition of elected mayors on communities who do not want them.
- Decentralise decision-making from Whitehall and Westminster by inviting local areas to take control of the services that matter to them most.
- Strengthen local democracy including introducing proportional representation for electing councillors in England and scrapping the Conservatives' voter ID scheme.

- Appoint a cross-departmental Minister for Rural Communities, to make sure that rural voices are heard across government.
- Give local authorities new powers to control second homes and short-term lets in their areas by allowing them to increase council tax by up to 500% where homes are being bought as second homes, with a stamp duty surcharge on overseas residents purchasing such properties, Creating a new planning class for these properties.
- Encourage post offices to become community banking and government hubs, and keep DVLA services available at post office counters.
- Enhance powers over community assets to help local authorities protect pubs, community farms, and other vital infrastructure.
- Invest in leisure centres, swimming pools and other grassroots facilities, and support community sports clubs.
- Give local authorities the powers they need to restore bus routes and add new ones where there is local need, especially in rural areas.
- Boost bus services by giving local authorities more powers to franchise services and simplifying funding, so that bus routes can be restored or new routes added where there is local need, especially in rural areas.
- Make it cheaper and easier for drivers to switch to electric vehicles by rapidly rolling out far more charging points.
- Transform how people travel by creating new cycling and walking networks with a new nationwide active travel strategy.
- Give more of the roads budget to local councils to maintain existing roads, pavements and cycleways, including repairing potholes.
- Devolve greater decision-making powers and resources to local authorities in England to design public transport infrastructure around community needs, including powers to introduce network-wide ticketing as in London.
- Boost participation in sports and physical activity by investing in leisure centres, swimming pools and other grassroots facilities and supporting community sports clubs.

- Give everyone a new right to flexible working and every disabled person the right to work from home if they want to, unless there are significant business reasons why it is not possible.
- Introducing a Digital Bill of Rights to protect everyone's rights online, including the rights to privacy, free expression, and participation without being subjected to harassment and abuse.
- Require social media companies to publish reports setting out the action they have taken to address online abuse against women and girls, and other groups who share a protected characteristic.
- Scrapping the Conservatives' voter ID scheme and requiring political parties to publish candidate diversity data.
- Make it easier for disabled people to access public life, including the world of work including by adopting new accessibility standards for public spaces.
- Ensure no politician can take you for granted, by introducing proportional representation by the Single Transferable Vote for electing MPs, and local councillors in England.
- Establishing a joint council to oversee the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other 'levelling up' spending, working in partnership with governments, combined authorities and councils across the UK.
- Support the creation of a UK Constitutional Convention, with the aim of drafting a new Federal Constitution that sets out the powers of the government at each tier, founded on the principles of democratic engagement, liberal values and respect for diverse identities, underpinned by a fair distribution of resources based on respective needs. The Convention will establish an inclusive approach for determining the structure of government in England.

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