



Scottish Liberal Democrats 2007 Manifesto - Summary of Policies

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EDUCATION

- > **250 new schools and 1,000 more teachers to cut class sizes.**
- > **1 hour of physical activity a day and extra sports coaches.**
- > **Free playgroup places for 2 year olds.**
- > **Headteachers to have more powers to turn around poorly performing schools.**
- > **Tackle poor discipline.**

Early Years Education

- We will pilot the Nurse Family Partnership model that has had major success in the US in supporting mothers before, during and after pregnancy.
- Extend free nursery places entitlement to match the current school year and to 15 hours per week – providing an extra half hour a day for eating and socialising.
- Begin a 10 year Integrated Early Years and Childcare Strategy to build capacity and improve training across all parts of the early years workforce.
- Introduce a new Scottish Play Strategy to highlight the importance of play and communication in a child's learning and development.
- Ensure that every two year old has access to a free place in a local playgroup for up to 15 hours per week.
- Make improvements to early years facilities, with more greenspace, recognising the importance of outdoor learning for all children.

Transition to primary school

- Change the way that P1 works to make it a transition year focused on learning through play. This will give teachers more flexibility to introduce children gradually to formal teaching from the age of six.

Support for parents and families

- Increase the support for Sure Start Scotland to expand capacity.
- Extend the use of early years centres and family centres.
- Develop a National Parenting and Family Support Strategy to help parents to help themselves with more support groups and information.
- We will extend wraparound care in schools - making high quality, affordable childcare available in schools between 8am and 6pm for every child whose parents want it.

Children's wellbeing

- Measure the wellbeing of children in Scotland, requiring an annual report on progress set against that of other nations.
- Introduce Children's Rights Impact Assessments to show how decisions impact on the rights and wellbeing of children.

Let teachers run schools

- Committed to maintaining the comprehensive tradition against moves that would undermine this approach.
- Reject new institutions like city academies that affect only a tiny minority.
- Where a school wants to develop a specialism or approach that fits their local circumstances they should be encouraged to do just that, without central interference.
- Improve the support available for headteachers and senior management teams to reduce the burden of paperwork and bureaucracy.
- Give headteachers new powers to require parents to attend a meeting with the headteacher or education authority.

Transforming schools

- Get the best headteachers to use their skills to transform poorly achieving schools and offer those headteachers new incentives and improved contract terms for this work.

- A new Schools Transformation Fund will make up to £100,000 available to these headteachers to help turn those schools around.
- Provide incentives for teachers who can fill vacancies in areas or subjects where there are shortages.
- Extend step-down and part-time opportunities for teachers and do so without adversely affecting their pension and retirement options.

More teachers, smaller classes, new schools

- Increase teacher training places further to deliver an extra 1,000 teachers above the current record of 53,000.
- Cut class sizes in P1 to P3 to a maximum of 25.
- Work with teachers and local authorities to reduce average class sizes in all primary years.
- Invest in a further 250 new and refurbished schools.
- Improve design and architecture of new school buildings, learning from the best examples across Europe.
- Enable parent councils to ask HMIE to review the decision-making process of the local authority to ensure it has met the requirements of the Scottish Executive guidance on school closures.

Improving discipline and tackling bullying

- Implement the recommendations of the Better Discipline Taskforce.
- Seek greater involvement of parents and carers in resolving discipline issues, with more use of family conferencing and other innovative techniques.
- Support the 'Four Quid for a Kid' campaign, pledging additional support to tackle bullying.
- Support the option of exclusion and the use of off-site units for when the behaviour of a child continues to threaten teachers and fellow pupils or undermine the educational achievements of the rest of the class.
- Extend the range of services open to schools and local authorities as alternatives to exclusion.
- Effective peer support and buddying schemes in every school.
- More action to ensure that homophobic bullying is taken seriously along with sectarian and racist abuse.

Excellence in the curriculum

- A system of personalised learning must become central to the education of every child as children don't always progress in a simple steady way.
- Parents should receive a clear explanation of what his or her child is learning and how best to give support.
- Ensure that particularly gifted children have the opportunities they need through peer support groups, summer school, college or university courses, a more stretching curriculum and new or advanced subjects.

Transition to secondary

- All secondary schools to develop transition partnerships with their feeder primary schools- secondary teachers should spend more time in primary schools to make sure that progress made at primary is built on rather than starting from scratch in secondary.

Skills and knowledge for life

- 10,000 school-business partnerships by 2010.
- Increase the involvement of Scotland's business organisations in enterprise education.
- Develop soft skills, communication, teamwork and lateral thinking from an early age.
- A major push to improve financial education for all children and young people.
- Support the roll out of more advanced qualifications in financial education.
- Work with banks to make it easier for young people to open a bank account with their Young Scot card.

Science

- Increase the support for science in schools and build the links between further and higher education science departments and schools.
- Practical science lessons taking place in every primary school.
- Make entry to Scotland's science centres free for under 16s.

Languages

- Develop a comprehensive National Languages Strategy, building on the best international practice, to deliver a cultural step change in language skills by 2015.
- Include a rolling programme to introduce a second language early into the primary curriculum.
- Support for more language immersion projects, with more Foreign Language Assistants to support the work of primary teachers.

Young people

- > **Schools open at evenings and weekends to offer new activities.**
- > **Young Opportunity Fund to support youth projects.**
- > **More outdoor activity and education for young people.**
- > **Votes at 16.**
- > **Give young people new rights through a Future of Scotland Bill and youth councils.**

Positive about young people

- Bring forward The Future of Scotland Bill to guarantee a positive role for young people; to give them the power and influence to get things done for their own lives and their communities.
- Turn our schools into community hubs.
- A requirement for local authorities to publish plans to increase significantly the use of school facilities in their area at evenings and weekends.

New Activities

- Young Opportunity Fund will provide financial support for a range of positive policies.
- Every child will be entitled to two weeks of outdoor activity during their time at secondary school.
- Target investment at clubs offering sport, leisure, music, art and environmental activities during evenings, weekends and school holidays.
- Young Opportunity Fund to offer Bright Future Support Grants with up to £100 funding for young people from low income backgrounds to help towards equipment and materials to support their interest.
- Cut the cost of access to sport and leisure facilities to help encourage more young people to use them.
- More use of dance, aerobics, rollerblading and other activities as part of the PE curriculum for those that are turned off by traditional sports.
- Set a new target for every child to receive an hour of physical activity every day.
- 1,000 new sports coaches including 100 extra PE teachers
- A new fund to support local sports clubs that work with schools to meet the new target for physical activity
- New statutory duty on Ministers and local authorities to support youth work provision to a defined minimum standard,
- Pilot three 'super youth club' facilities.
- Implement a new National Youth Strategy.
- Ensure adequate alternative local facilities are provided to engage with young people to tackle antisocial behaviour.
- Young people themselves must be involved in the development of local antisocial behaviour strategies and this should be integrated as much as possible with the National Youth Work Strategy.
- More successful schemes such as midnight football, basketball leagues, youth cafes and other innovative approaches to tackle anti social behaviour.

Empowering young people

- The Future of Scotland Bill will entrench the rights of young people in decision-making across Scotland.
- A pupil council in every school.
- Youth councils should be established in every council area with real powers of scrutiny over council activities that affect young people most.
- Wherever appropriate, young people should be represented on the boards of a range of public sector organisations.

- Encourage greater involvement in the Scottish Youth Parliament, ensuring they are consulted on decisions affecting young people, supporting them to roll out nationwide elections.
- Involve them in the work of the Scottish Parliament, with ministerial question times to scrutinise government Ministers, and the opportunity to introduce a Bill through the Committee system.
- Lobby Westminster to reduce the voting age for council and Scottish Parliament elections to 16.
- Support to roll out YouthBanks across Scotland, ensuring at least one in every local authority area. These YouthBanks will be run by young people for young people and will provide small grants to fund their good ideas - whether they are more youth cafes, skateparks, buying new sports equipment, improving leisure activities, or other local improvements and small projects.
- National youth leadership programme to increase the opportunities for young people aged 16 to 19 to develop the skills and confidence to become leaders within their communities.
- Youth Community Enterprises – a new form of non-profit distributing business to include young people in a range of community activities.
- Support volunteering in all its forms to encourage ongoing activity as well as one- off gap year projects.
- Consider the options for a new unit in Project Scotland to develop opportunities for young people to undertake work and voluntary placements in international organisations.

Vulnerable young people

- Require a national audit of needs and services to ensure quality placements for all children who need them, backed by a national research strategy into best practice and improving outcomes for looked after children.
- Develop thoroughcare and aftercare plan in place for all looked after young people
- We will continue to support public campaigns to increase the number of foster parents.
- Introduce a pilot of supported accommodation available to vulnerable young people leaving care or leaving home with onsite staff to provide support.
- Make greater use of leadership academies to prepare young people with the skills they need for leaving care.
- We will consult on the options for a Bright Future Fund for Looked After Children.

Enterprise and Economy

- > **Lower business rates to below levels in the rest of the UK.**
- > **Innovation and Investment Agency to deliver threefold increase in business R&D.**
- > **Cut unnecessary red tape and regulation.**
- > **More young people into education, training and work with more vocational skills.**
- > **Invest in further and higher education and scrap the graduate endowment.**

Dynamic Scotland

- Publish economic forecasts for Scotland.
- Require departments to demonstrate how they contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- Cut business rate poundage to below levels in the rest of the UK.
- Maintain Scottish business rates below levels in the rest of the UK for the term of the next Scottish Parliament.
- Allow local councils to retain all business rate receipts generated above a target and trend rather than surrender them to the central pool.
- Support the rollout of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) across Scotland which allow businesses to come together to vote to invest collectively in local improvements in the area.

Small business

- Doubling the existing support for small business under the small business rates relief scheme.
- Allowing small businesses to make five-year applications rather than annual applications, with a requirement for firms to inform of a change to rateable values in that time.
- Ending the 'negative' system of transitional rates relief so that businesses benefit immediately from reduced rateable values, but retain the 'positive' transitional support when bills rise.
- Introduce a Small Retailers Support Fund. This will allow local authorities to extend discretionary rates relief to 100 per cent for small, independent shops designated as having a vital community benefit.
- Give more opportunity to micro and small business sector with access to micro credit
- Maintain the Business Gateway service.

World class infrastructure

- Ensure that the National Planning Framework for Scotland is developed quickly and is subject to detailed consultation by the Scottish Parliament and a range of stakeholders.
- Opposed to the UK Labour Government's plans for a national planning gain supplement.
- Free Scottish Water from the constraints of the public sector and allow it to operate in a more efficient manner as a mutual company.
- Legislate to ensure that the future de-mutualisation or privatisation of Scottish Water is prohibited.
- Ensure that all of Scotland benefits from the roll out of the next generation of broadband.
- Introduce a WiFi Towns and Cities Fund.
- Support the development of a network of Remote Working Centres to act as hub centres where home and distance workers can use shared office facilities.

Investment in industry

- Support Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to grow Scotland's economy.
- Work with the Scottish Banks and financial institutions to increase access to venture capital in Scotland.

- Establish an Investment and Innovation Agency in Scotland with new long term target for a threefold increase in business research and development, bringing together current research and development funds.

Skills and training

- Pilot new business incubators in schools and further education colleges which can attract and develop those young people who are liable to fall into the NEET category.
- Commit to a three per cent per year real terms increase to further education funding over the next spending review. This will allow us to roll out the successful Skills for Work courses for 14 to 16 year olds to do vocational and work based training and more partnerships between schools, colleges and businesses.
- Set a new target of 50,000 Modern Apprenticeships by 2011.
- Careers Scotland to establish a Key Worker service available to all young people who need it to provide intensive one to one advice and support when making key transitions between school, training and work.
- Create a systematic follow-up service for school leavers thought to be at risk of falling into the NEET group.
- Merge Careers Scotland and Learndirect Scotland, recognising the close links between careers advice and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Greater parity of esteem in lifelong learning through a Scottish credit framework.

Further and higher education

- Support the call from Universities Scotland to increase investment in our universities by an extra £168 million by the end of the next term of the Scottish Parliament.
- Work with colleges and universities to consider the options for a matched funding scheme or other support to lever in additional private investment, delivered through new funding, not top-slicing.
- A joint fund among government, universities and private benefactors for highly prestigious awards.
- Every college and university should have an enterprise centre and business incubators, in partnership with corporate Scotland.
- Scottish Funding Council to work with business to consider if changes are needed to the Research Assessment Exercise to ensure it supports research with a practical business and economic outcome.

Students and learners

- Steadfastly oppose the introduction of student top-up fees in Scotland.
- Abolish the graduate endowment but maintain the fund for grants and bursaries
- Increase the level of bursaries given to the poorest students above inflation.
- Establish a National Widening Access Unit to increase the numbers of students from poorer backgrounds entering further and higher education.
- Review means testing in Higher Education and consider introducing a new minimum income guarantee for students, met through varying combinations of bursaries, loans and parental contributions.
- Review the support system for part time learners to increase support in meeting fee and study costs.
- Major increase in the number of students undertaking a work placement.

Regulation

- Implement a Scottish Red Tape Action Plan to develop a more proportionate system of regulation based on a proper assessment of risk.
- Those businesses that consistently meet high standards should be rewarded through a reduction in the burden of inspection and regulation.
- Implement the Hampton Report on more efficient approaches to regulatory inspection and enforcement and the Macrory Review on effective regulatory penalties.
- Increase the resources of the IRIS Unit and ensure its annual report is scrutinised by industry itself.

- Regulations with a significant impact on business to be reviewed after four to five years to determine their impact, effectiveness and cost, with input from business itself.
- Establish an industry led group to review regulatory processes in Scotland with the aim of reducing the administrative burden on the private sector by 25 per cent.
- More joint inspections by government agencies.
- Pilot a new initiative with SEPA to pilot risk based system of regulation and enforcement.
- Codify further the definition and presentation of Scotch whisky in legislation and ensure the new European Spirit Drinks Regulation meets the needs of the Scotch whisky industry.

Procurement

- Encourage the NHS in Scotland to buy more from our new life sciences companies.
- Reform public procurement rules to create a level playing field for all businesses to apply for contracts
- A single Scottish portal to advertise all public sector opportunities

Social responsibility

- Supplement GDP with other measures which look at quality of life.
- Develop a framework for the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in Scotland.
- Greater recognition and support for social enterprise models.
- Change the system of business rate valuations to encourage small businesses to install micropower and energy efficiency.
- Extend support to businesses to invest in energy efficiency and microgeneration through the Loan Action Scotland scheme.

Environment

- > **100 per cent renewable electricity with major investment in wave and tidal power.**
- > **Reduce energy demands with investment in energy efficiency, microgeneration and local power.**
- > **Reduce waste and increase recycling rates to 70 per cent by 2020.**
- > **Cut carbon emissions with 4 year targets and annual report.**
- > **Make every school an eco-school and improve environmental education.**

Climate change

- Commitment that Scotland will cut one million tonnes above its share in reducing the UK's carbon emissions.
- Introduce specific and ambitious targets to reduce carbon emissions with a 4 year overall carbon reduction target and an annual report to Parliament on progress towards meeting a 12.5 per cent reduction by 2010 and 60 per cent by 2050.
- Work with the UK Government to ensure the UK plays a leading role in establishing a robust agreement on targets to reduce significantly global emissions beyond 2012, particularly in the transport sector.
- Establish a Carbon Challenge Demonstration Fund to support innovative low carbon developments and help towns and cities in Scotland achieve.
- Development of sustainable flood management strategies and investment to reduce the impact of flooding.
- develop an overseas climate change team to do more to assist developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Double the current provision made by the Scottish Executive for overseas aid.

Energy use and generation

- A clear strategy to reduce energy demand across society.

- Invest in and have bold targets for more decentralised energy, microgeneration, energy efficiency and renewable energy, to reduce energy demand and carbon emissions across Scotland.
- Consult on the introduction of a new target to reduce electricity use by 20 per cent by 2050.

Microgeneration and energy efficiency

- All new homes to have microgeneration so we can generate up to 17 per cent of all our electricity consumption from clean green renewable sources.
- All new homes to meet high levels of energy efficiency through tighter building regulations.
- From 2010 all new buildings - private and public - to use onsite micropower to generate at least a fifth of the building's energy needs.
- A new energy efficiency and microgeneration strategy, including setting challenging targets for microgeneration and more energy efficient homes.

Healthy green homes

- Committed to ending fuel poverty by 2016.
- Bring together the existing programmes into a new Healthy Green Homes Fund, to bring upgrade at least 40,000 homes every year from 2009.
- This fund will effectively extend the Warm Deal and Central Heating programmes so that in addition to qualifying for energy efficiency, low income households will also be offered free installation of appropriate microgeneration technology and smart metering.
- Increase the support available to housing associations and local authorities to ensure that they can meet new individual targets for installing microgeneration and energy efficiency measures.
- Work with the electricity companies to see how leveraging in their investment into the Healthy Green Homes Fund can work to allow us to do more, and them to meet their Energy Efficiency Commitment.
- Support the target of Warm Zones to target fuel poor households.
- See much greater use of referral schemes where health professionals, care workers, and other community services act as trusted intermediaries to point people in fuel poverty towards the healthy green homes team.
- Continue to support private homeowners looking for grant support to install microgeneration or improve energy efficiency in their homes.
- Homeowners who install new microgeneration during the term of the next parliament can benefit from a one-off £200 rebate on local tax bills. Those who also invest in energy efficiency measures will be eligible for a further £100 rebate.
- We will give more support to local authorities to work in partnership with landlords, including low and zero interest loans and a grant support scheme for buildings in multiple occupation.
- Change planning rules to make it easier to install microrenewables by making them permitted development.
- Investment in training to increase the number of skilled installers.
- Press the Westminster Government to reform VAT and guarantee that microgenerated electricity can be sold back to the grid at market rate.
- Introduce energy performance certificates for homes which change hands as part of single seller surveys and tenancy agreements.
- Ensure that the review of building standards for 2009 further increases thermal efficiency requirements.

Green governance

- Long term objective is for renewable energy to be generated on-site in every building.
- Every part of the public sector to generate at least a fifth of their own energy on-site by 2020.
- All school building projects have to include microgeneration, energy efficiency and sustainable building techniques.

- Introduce Smart metering technology in schools and homes will show people the cost of the energy they use.
- Double the energy efficiency fund to £40m.
- Encourage the use of global footprint tools in the Scottish Executive, its agencies and in local authorities across Scotland to inform decisions to reduce Scotland's ecological footprint.
- All Scottish Executive buildings and transport to be carbon neutral by 2012.
- Expand the remit of the Audit Committee to include an assessment of each Scottish Executive Department's commitments to sustainable development. It will be renamed the Sustainable Development and Audit Committee.

Local energy and renewable heat

- Create local power in every community in Scotland, including combined heat and power, district heating systems, air and ground heat pumps, microrenewables, biomass, storage cells, smart grid technology, a network of hydrogen fuel pumps, and support for innovative hydrogen storage systems
- The Glasgow Commonwealth Games Village to follow a decentralised energy model.
- Develop plans for more decentralised energy.
- Consult on a new requirement for all new power stations to include cogeneration of electricity and heat.
- Consult on the introduction of new enterprise models such as energy services companies (ESCOs) that can deliver local low emission energy.
- A new renewable heat strategy for Scotland to cut carbon emissions.
- A target for 10 per cent of Scotland's heat needs to come from renewable and microgeneration sources by 2020.
- Biomass Action Plan, to encourage production by farmers and provide the resources for a major expansion in combined heat and power.

Renewable energy

- Renewable energy supplying 100 per cent of Scotland's electricity.
- Raising the existing 40 per cent target to 60 per cent by 2020.
- Wave machines generating electricity in Scottish waters by the end of 2007.
- Support more new wave and tidal power projects through the Marine Energy Fund and the extended green credits support for the marine industry.
- Push for major changes to the grid system to help the renewables industry grow in Scotland.
- Lobby UK Government for OFGEM's remit to have sustainable development as its primary role.
- Support plans for an offshore 'supergrid' so that Scotland develops its full renewables potential.
- Communities renewables projects with government support for bulk purchase options for procuring, delivering, erecting and maintaining wind turbines in the most cost effective way.
- Support the creation of the world's first industrial-scale hydrogen power scheme at Peterhead which will re-inject carbon dioxide under the ocean floor.

Green food miles

- Public sector will do its bit and take the lead in buying local, healthy food.
- Roll out procurement rules that can promote local, fresh, healthy produce as in East Ayrshire to all schools in Scotland.

Waste management

- Work with manufacturers and retailers to build sustainable design into products, remove unnecessary packaging, and develop lighter packaging.
- Reduce the volume of unsolicited goods and materials such as junk mail by encouraging the use of delisting options.

- reduce the environmental impact of plastic bags by 25 per cent by 2008
- Keep the option to legislate for a plastic bag levy open if significant progress towards this target is not made.
- Recycling and composting rates increase to 70 per cent by 2020.
- Work with councils to set individual targets to help bring the poorer performing councils up to standard and build on the progress of the best performing.
- Kerbside recycling extended across the country.
- Community composting and waste separation facilities to be introduced as standard
- Support an increase in the use of home composting.
- A major push to reduce business waste and improve recycling in the business sector and a new target to increase business waste recycling
- consider introducing a deposit on recyclable drinks containers that would be refunded when the container is presented for recycling.

Natural environment

- Better investigation and prosecution of environmental and wildlife crime.
- Committed to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 to prevent any further loss of Scotland's natural heritage.
- improving the indicators selected to assess progress towards these goals by working with the Scottish Biodiversity Forum, and increasing funding for the Biodiversity Action Plan grant scheme.
- Consult on extending the existing target of features cited in SSSIs that are in 'favourable condition' from 80 per cent by 2008 to 100 per cent by 2010.
- More emphasis on planting native species within forestry.
- Ensure that EU Life+ funding is brought to Scotland and used for the enhancement of our most valuable and endangered species and habitats.
- We will consult on the options for new legislation to renew National Scenic Areas.

Recreation and access

- Fund the implementation of the Land Reform legislation on access with adequate resources for path networks, outdoor education, access officers and access forums.
- Provide long term funding for developing a core path network via Land Management Contract incentives.
- Ensure that Strategic Environmental Assessment takes proper account of these links between good health and wellbeing and the environment.

Water environment

- Continue to implement the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management plan.
- Implement measures to address the problems of diffuse pollution and we will meet the requirements of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones Directive.
- Introduce sustainable flood management policies that reduce the damage caused by flooding.
- We will also review the relevant legislation relating to flooding to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Marine environment

- Introduce a Scottish Marine Bill to provide a coherent framework for managing our seas.
- Seek UK agreement for the Scottish Parliament to have exclusive jurisdiction out to the 200 mile limit.
- Build on the wide support, in principle, for a coastal and marine national park.

Environment education

- Every school to become an eco school, with all working towards green flag status.
- Improve the standard of environmental education, with more outdoor learning.

Health and Wellbeing

- > **200 extra dentists so everyone has access to an NHS dentist.**
- > **100 new and refurbished local health centres.**
- > **2,000 extra nurses.**
- > **Faster diagnosis and treatment with a new waiting time guarantee.**
- > **Better children's health with free fruit in primary schools and cookery lessons.**

Health centres and community hospitals

- A major building programme for 100 new local health centre -expanding the capability of community hospitals to provide minor surgery.
- Give our 100 existing community hospitals a greater role and give more support to the work of local GPs.
- Develop and strengthen the links between primary care teams, ensuring that a wider range of services are delivered in the community.

Nurses

- Recruit an additional 2,000 nurses.
- Encourage further specialisation of roles in the nursing profession so that we make the most of their talents.
- Broaden the career structure available to nurses and give them a greater role in service provision at all levels.
- Consider the case for improving financial support to student nurses.

Pharmacists

- Community pharmacists should have more powers to prescribe and treat patients, lessening the burden on GPs.
- Make the system of prescription charges fairer. We will limit the maximum amount that anyone has to pay to the equivalent of one prescription per month.
- We will maintain a system of exemptions for pensioners, people on low incomes and those with chronic illnesses so that they will continue to pay nothing.

Allied health professionals

- Recruit a further 500 allied health professionals (AHPs),
- We will trial and evaluate the introduction of new physician assistants to the NHS (health care professionals licensed to practise medicine under a physician's supervision) with a view to rolling these out across primary care teams if they demonstrate a positive benefit.

Dentistry

- Recruitment an additional 200 dentists to Scotland to work primarily as salaried NHS dentists
- Support the establishment of an Aberdeen Dental School.
- Look at the options for improving children's oral health through more use of salaried dentists undertaking check ups in schools in deprived areas.

Tackling delayed discharge

- Encourage a more flexible career structure across health and social care disciplines as part of a review to bring social work legislation up to date.
- Use the latest technology to support older people to live longer in their own homes.

Rural health

- Introduce a strategy for sustaining small rural and community hospitals
- Establish a Clinical School for Rural Health Care to ensure workforce development and promote the use of general consultants to undertake routine procedures.

- We will establish a Tele-health Technology Resource Centre (TTRC), based in Aberdeen, to develop nationally applicable approaches to tele-health
- Support the Orkney Air Ambulance Service.
- We will establish a dedicated social enterprise unit in the health department to encourage the development of the sector in Scotland.

Involving people in health

- Local people should be involved in the redesign of health services from the outset.
- Increase local accountability with greater scrutiny role for local government over health services, however we oppose electing local health boards.
- Health Boards should avoid closing NHS facilities until new or better suited facilities are in place.

A better deal for Scotland's carers

- Work with existing providers to establish a comprehensive network of Carers' Centres.
- Increase the number of carers who receive a carer's assessment each year.
- Improve support so that carers can take longer breaks.
- Work with councils to improve the process of commissioning services for carers.

Sensory impairment

- We will introduce a new 26 week maximum audiology waiting time guarantee by 2009 with a view to reducing further waiting times to 18 weeks by 2012.
- We want to increase the number of BSL interpreters so that deaf people can have better access to sign language interpreters when they need them.
- Implement the recommendations of the recent sensory impairment review, particularly improving the provision of specialist mental health services.
- Develop a National Vision Strategy for Scotland, identifying the key needs to meet the social, educational, health and employment needs of blind and visually impaired people.

Faster diagnosis and treatment

- Undertake a full consultation on introducing a new Total Waiting Time Guarantee (TWTG). Under this guarantee we will set out maximum waiting times for access to primary care, GPs, diagnostics, consultant referrals and treatment. It will be based on a maximum wait of 186 days - just over six months, following a new model of 1-5-90-90.
- Access to a member of the primary care team within a day.
- When a patient needs to see a GP, there will be a maximum waiting time of 5 days.
- If the GP refers the patient on to a specialist, the waiting time for diagnosis will be a maximum of 90 days.
- To make that first specialist appointment more meaningful, local health workers will undertake more tests at the time of referral.
- Shift to more diagnostic investigations in the primary care sector- particularly ultrasound, CT and MRI scans and endoscopy and new investment in equipment and staff to increase capacity.
- Give GPs to have more options for referral so that where colleagues in primary care have a specialist interest or knowledge, GPs can refer to them directly.
- From the time the specialist decides that treatment is required, patients will have a maximum waiting time of 90 days to receive that treatment.
- Introduce new nurse and AHP led pre-admission clinics accessed in advance of their elective operation so that certain tests and assessments can be carried out prior to the procedure.
- Endorse the principles in the report of Professor David Kerr on modernising the NHS.
- Separate out planned and unscheduled care.
- The new 1-5-90-90 day guarantee to be met for at least 80 per cent of patients by December 2011.

Technology and patient information

- Move to an individual electronic health record.
- Increase support for patient advocacy so that people can access trained, impartial advocates to help when they have a problem in the system. We will place a duty on Boards to ensure access to patient advocates in their area.

Tackling Scotland's biggest killers

- Aim to reduce deaths from CHD in the under 75s by 60 per cent by 2010.
- Review the Scottish Cancer Strategy to update it, ensuring the full involvement of clinicians, patients, researchers and other stakeholders.
- Phase in a national bowel cancer screening programme to all health board areas by 2009.
- We will also add respiratory diseases and Alzheimer's and other degenerative diseases to make five national priority areas in total (in addition to CHD / stroke, cancer and mental health).

Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI)

- Continue to make combating HAI a high priority through the HAI Task Force.
- Ensure that Sisters and Charge Nurses have the authority to require local cleaning services to act on problems identified.

Preventative care

- Continue the work started under the Keep Well (formerly Prevention 2010) project which is looking at how to anticipate and prevent ill health among the target population of 45 to 64 year olds at risk of serious ill health.
- Evaluate these anticipatory care pilots at the earliest possible opportunity, setting clear national objectives, and providing the resources to roll these out across Scotland.
- Include developing new ways to give easy access to men - who are often reluctant to visit their GP - to screening and health check services in the community.
- Increase our support for the use of statins - medicines that cut the risk of heart disease by helping to lower cholesterol.

Long term conditions

- More support for preventative and anticipatory care, helping people to manage their illness at home and in local health centres.
- Review our provision of specialist heart failure nurses and clinics so that people across Scotland have improved access.
- We support and recognise the right for people with terminal illness to die at home.
- Bring together all the experts to see how advances in medicines and technology can prevent ill health

Health improvement

- All government action, all strategies, and all Bills are assessed for their impact on the health of the population and the environment.
- Ensure that Strategic Environmental Assessment takes proper account of the relationship between good health and the environment.

Healthy local food

- No organisation that is supported by taxpayers' money should contribute to poor health - they should all promote good health. must ensure that the bulk of the food they buy and serve is healthy local food
- New nutritional standards for all hospital meals.
- Support the creation of more allotments and community market gardens that can supply local fruit and vegetables at low cost and advice and support for families are all important.
- Support social enterprises to run their own healthy, low cost food shops from council premises at zero rent.

Smoking

- Tackle under age smoking through a mandatory proof of age scheme.
- Extending of test purchasing.
- Heavy fines for retailers who knowingly sell to under 16s.
- Introduce a negative licensing scheme so that repeat offenders can be prohibited from selling tobacco products.
- Urge the UK Government to increase annually the price of tobacco products at a rate faster than inflation.

Drugs and alcohol

- Test purchasing schemes extended - where local police are able to enlist young people to 'test' whether pubs or shops will sell alcohol to underage customers.
- Introduce a new Challenge 21 scheme to crack down on underage drinking.
- Review progress in two years and take action to make it a mandatory 'no proof, no sale' scheme if the problem remains.
- Establishment of a national register of drug and alcohol services.
- Doubling of funding for drug and alcohol treatment - more than £100 million of additional funding over the next spending review-this extra funding will be used to increase residential places, cut waiting times for services, and create more family support posts to provide intensive early support to prevent crises developing.

Mental health

- Continue to treat mental health as one of our national clinical priorities.
- Monitor the implementation and effect of the recent mental health legislation to make changes where needed.
- Implement the delivering for Mental Health plan which has been developed by a range of stakeholders.

Sexual health

- Commit to sustainable funding to back up the Scottish Sexual Health Strategy from 2007 to 2011. This long term investment will help build capacity and in turn address waiting times, with a view to introducing a maximum wait of 48 hours to access GUM clinics.
- Support education campaigns for young people.
- See more specialist sexual health services located outwith traditional healthcare environments.

Children's health

- Investment in improving school meals, ensuring that they source the bulk of their food from local producers and suppliers.
- Extend free school meal entitlement to more families receiving working tax credit.
- Extend free fruit provision from P1 and P2 to all primary children.
- Where practical, every school to have a breakfast club to give access to healthy food before school starts.
- Schools to buy more fresh, local produce as well as to producing their own.
- Expansion in cookery classes for children throughout their time at school.
- Consult on raising the nutritional guidelines in Scotland to promote good health, and launch a pilot scheme to trial greater use of vitamin supplements in schools.

Children's exercise

- Introduce a new Play Fund to refurbish, renovate and reinstate play areas.
- A target for every child to get one hour of physical activity every day.

Children's health services

- Children's Health Service operating across schools in every part of the country.
- Give our school nurses a major boost in numbers and improve their prospects and develop their role to put them truly at the heart of the health promotion agenda.
- Introduce personal health records for every child.

- Children from any part of Scotland to be able to access specialist obesity services.
- Introduce Managed Clinical Networks for children's health services to deliver a nationally consistent service.

Crime and Justice

- > **1,000 extra community police officers.**
- > **Tougher community sentences that make offenders work to repay their crime and cut reoffending.**
- > **Crack down on knife crime with 7 year maximum sentences.**
- > **Youth Justice Board and Youth Panels to cut youth crime.**
- > **Tackle Scotland's drug and alcohol culture.**

Community policing

- Recruit 1,000 extra community police officers, this will provide at least two additional community police officers in every council ward in Scotland.
- Police Board to publish an annual Community Policing Plan setting out how they will deploy existing and additional officers.
- Introduce the next generation of neighbourhood watch by improving the links between communities and their dedicated community officers-providing and circulating a dedicated mobile phone number for local officers.
- Community officers should provide email updates to local residents on law and order issues in their neighbourhood.

More effective sentences

- Replace very short term prison sentences of three months and under with tougher community sentences that make offenders work to repay their crimes and cut reoffending.
- More use of effective alternatives to custody-combine the effect of probation orders and Supervised Attendance Orders so specific tailored conditions can be set on the offender during the community sentence.
- Increase the use of restorative justice measures such as Community Reparation Orders, rolling them out across Scotland from 2008 onwards following the evaluation of the current pilot schemes.
- Restorative Justice Panels - where someone convicted from a district court is referred to a restorative justice panel (made up of members of the community and supported by professional staff) to agree measures that help to make amends to society and the community.
- Greater use of conditional sentences for sentences of less than six months. These would involve specified periods of imprisonment, backed up by tough conditions for community sentences, over a defined period to address offending behaviour.
- Pilot the use of dual sentencing where offenders return to court following the completion of the custodial part of their sentence for the judge to set the community part, with conditions on behaviour attached to the remainder of the sentence.

Reducing reoffending

- Replace the Scottish Prison Service with a new Scottish Custody and Rehabilitation Service, Transforming SPS into a prison and community based service.
- Roll out a network of Community Justice Centres based on the pilot of the community link centres where rehabilitation services are coordinated.

Skills for work not crime

- Introduce schemes to provide offenders with skills for work, not crime. Providing transferable skills and training to offenders, with secure employment opportunities, will be effective in cutting reoffending rates.
- Introduce targets for the number of prisoners leaving custody with nationally accredited qualifications.

- Business Sector Coordinators in every prison to maintain positive relationships with local employers and build on existing links between prisons and employers in the community to enable prisoners, where appropriate, to participate in external work placements.
- Introduce a training scheme for selected offenders in areas such as trades, construction and engineering where Scotland has a shortage of trained workers and vacancies which are considered hard to fill.
- Introduce more tailored programmes for individual offenders serving the remainder of their sentence in the community.

Tackling violent crime

- Introduce maximum seven year combined custody and community sentences for possession of a knife. These sentences will be tougher, but with more focus on the reasons behind the offending to cut down on this menace.
- Continue to support the work of Scotland's police-led Violence Reduction Unit, ensuring it works seamlessly with the new Scottish Custody and Rehabilitation Service and Community Justice Authorities.
- Research the links between violent crime and early years development.

Reducing youth crime

- Create in the Scottish Executive a high level team to focus exclusively on best practice for early intervention and disseminate this to local authorities, health boards and police through Community Justice Authorities.
- Establish a Scottish Youth Justice Board to oversee the youth justice system and involve young people in shaping youth justice policy.

Diverting young people from crime

- More outreach Youth Work
- Ensure adequate alternative facilities are provided such as midnight football and youth cafes.
- Roll out of police Youth Action Teams which have demonstrated success in tackling hotspots of youth crime.
- Increase the use of pre-screening measures to ensure that referrals to the Children's Hearings system are appropriate.
- Roll out programmes such as the Tayside Domestic Abuse Service which redirect referrals to the hearings system that can be better dealt with through other interventions.

Support for victims and communities

- Extend the victim notification scheme so victims can be informed of the results of a trial and when an offender is released to those cases where the offender has been sentenced to over one year.
- Tackle the low conviction rate for rape and improve the justice process for victims by ensuring the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Crown Office review of the prosecution of rape and serious sexual offences.
- Evaluate the pilot of a specialist domestic abuse court. If successful, we will develop further this model for other parts of Scotland.
- Ensure greater provision for community mediation for neighbour, housing and antisocial disputes, including greater use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Support the roll out of taxi marshals for taxi ranks in large towns and cities to improve safety at evenings and weekends.

Drugs, alcohol and crime

- Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) to be rolled out to Scotland's district courts too.
- Pilot specific Alcohol Treatment and Testing Orders (ATTOs).
- Support greater use of Arrest Referral Schemes across Scotland, with shorter waiting times and greater availability of treatment.

- Establishment of a national register of drug and alcohol services, including residential placements, to improve knowledge of availability of places.
- Doubling of funding for drug and alcohol treatment - more than £100 million of extra resources over the next spending review.
- Support more early employability programmes which are integrated with the treatment, care and rehabilitation sectors.
- Introduce a strategy, led by the Scottish Executive, for early intervention with vulnerable young people, for example those in care and those living with a parent who has a drug problem.
- Introduce a national bottle marking scheme for alcohol, allowing easy tracing to the source where alcohol was bought.
- When young people are caught underage drinking by the police they should be able to be referred to local alcohol referral programmes for young people
- Support alternative alcohol free activities for young people, including more youth cafes.

Courts

- Develop training and support services for Justices of the Peace to ensure more coordinated provision for lay justices.
- Establish a national campaign to attract young people and people from minority groups to serve as lay justices and children's panel members.
- Legislate to extend the statutory aggravation for racist and religious hate crime to cover homophobic and disability-related hate crime.
- Explore new ways of delivering legal services, including in court advice and mediation services based within Sheriff Courts to help reduce court time and cost by settling disputes out of court.
- Bring forward a Judiciary (Scotland) Bill to reform the judiciary's relationship with the Court Service, building upon the "Strengthening Judicial Independence in a Modern Scotland" consultation.
- Improve access to legal advice and assistance, targeting rural and deprived areas. This will include providing more grant assistance for accessing advice through Citizens' Advice Bureau offices.
- Continue to reform civil law, working with the Scottish Law Commission to identify priorities for action.
- Take forward a review of civil courts under the leadership of Lord Gill.
- Establish a business and judicial led Commission to consider how Scots law can be reformed to assist in the development of the economy.

Civil liberties and equality

- Having passed the legislation, we will now move quickly to establish an independent Scottish Commission for Human Rights to promote awareness of, and respect for, these rights in Scotland.
- Producing an annual report on the progress of mainstreaming equality.
- Work with local authorities and other public services to develop an equality standard for Scotland which can act as a voluntary best value performance indicator.
- Implement the recommendations of the Women and Work Commission in Scotland.
- Establish a user-led Centre for Independent Living in every region of Scotland
- Encourage local authorities to put in place Registers of Accessible Housing to ensure that best use is made of housing stock that is accessible to disabled tenants.
- More voluntary sector and social enterprise involvement in getting disabled people into volunteering as a first step into work.
- Ensure the Enterprise Agencies roll out the Business Able scheme across Scotland to encourage more disabled people to start their own businesses.
- Mainstreaming disability awareness into training for frontline public sector workers.
- Support the One Scotland Many Cultures campaign.
- Publish a new Race Equality Strategy and Action Plan for Scotland.
- Improve data collection systems to measure more accurately Scotland's ethnic diversity and trends in racial inequality.

Asylum seekers

- Dawn raids are not the right approach, especially for families with children.
- Press the Home Office for changes to the system to recognise a more sensitive, integrated approach involving the education authorities, social work departments and the UK agencies when children are involved.

Transport

- > **Faster trains between Scotland's cities and support for a high speed link to London.**
- > **Major new investment in public transport.**
- > **Make Scotland a cycling nation.**
- > **Action to improve safety on our roads.**
- > **Replacement Forth crossing with better public transport.**

Rail and light rail

- See rail passenger journeys rise by a further 20 per cent by 2012 - 70 per cent higher than the final year of the Tory government.
- Deliver our existing major public transport commitments, including completing the Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine line; building the Borders Railway, the Edinburgh Airport Rail Link (EARL), the Glasgow Airport Rail Link (GARL) and the Airdrie-Bathgate railway; support for the Edinburgh trams; and investment in Edinburgh Waverley station.
- Support the electrification of a number of routes including Whifflet, Paisley Canal, East Kilbride and Barrhead/Kilmarnock, Stirling/Dunblane/Alloa, and Cumbernauld.
- Invest in more frequent services and longer trains and platforms to increase capacity on services from Kilmarnock to Glasgow and on services to and from Stirling and Dunblane.
- Increased capacity at both Glasgow Central and Glasgow Queen Street Stations.
- Examine the potential and affordability of an extension to the Glasgow subway.
- Implement Highland Rail proposals, reducing journey times between Inverness and the central belt to under three hours - more than competitive with the private car.
- Increase the Inverness to Aberdeen service to an hourly service, extending platforms to allow longer trains to increase capacity in growth areas like Elgin, and increase frequency between Aberdeen and Inverurie.
- Deliver a new station at Laurencekirk and support feasibility and value analysis of the Aberdeen Crossrail project.
- Reduce journey times on Aberdeen to Edinburgh services by at least 15 minutes.
- Investigate the options to reduce journey times between Edinburgh and Glasgow and cut carbon emissions through electrification and improving the frequency and speed of alternative services via the Shotts and Carstairs routes.
- By 2020, our ambition is for a high speed rail service between Edinburgh and Glasgow, cutting travel time to 30 minutes at most.
- Continue to develop Haymarket Station as a key interchange station, ensuring it integrates with the city's new tram network.
- Continue the re-development of Waverley Station to increase capacity and enhance passenger access and circulation space.
- Increase capacity on Edinburgh - Fife services.
- Investigate the case for reinstating passenger rail services to Leven, including a park and ride site and the case for a new rail halt at Newburgh.
- Support further analysis of the case for the reintroduction of the South Suburban Railway in Edinburgh.
- Build the Borders Railway and start planning for further extensions to the route.
- Press the UK Government to build a high speed rail link between Scotland and London, delivering sub three hour journeys.
- Review fares policy on the First Scotrail franchise to encourage greater modal shift, increase use of train services at off peak times and reduce the barrier to people switching for unplanned journeys by reducing very high 'step on' fares.
- See a major programme of car parking expansion at Scotland's railway stations.
- Improve the provision of secure cycle storage and bike capacity on trains across Scotland.

Better buses and transport when you need it

- All bus operators raise their standards to those of the best, using modern, efficient, low emission vehicles.
- Strengthen bus quality partnerships to cover issues such as frequency and punctuality of services.
- Improve the availability of information and increase the use of real time bus information.
- Develop Demand Responsive Transport with a regional call centre handling requests for transport such as taxibuses and minibuses with people able to book a time slot and pick up and drop off points.

Roads

- Abolish tolls on the Tay Bridge and end them on the Forth Bridge for cars with more than one occupant.
- Ensure the replacement Forth crossing is built as soon as practicable with special provision for public transport such as light rail and bus.
- Implement the current planned road infrastructure investment.
- Introduce a programme of road safety audits to prioritise improvements and require local authorities to audit the state of their roads and make a public report
- Introduce a challenge fund to improve the state of local roads.
- Consult on what lessons Scotland can learn from Swedish government's 'Vision Zero' policy stating that any road deaths were unacceptable.
- Extend the Pass Plus scheme across Scotland to support young drivers to take advanced driver training to improve their skills.

Choose cycling and walking

- Bold targets for more children going to school by public transport, cycling or walking.
- Pilot of new stricter restrictions on cars outside schools.
- We will work with parents' councils to develop school transport plans and continue funding for School Travel Plan coordinators.
- We will ensure that 20mph speed limit zones are in operation around all schools and encourage the rapid roll out of 20mph speed limit zones in residential areas.
- Set a target to double cycling rates in Scotland by 2012.
- A Cycling Demonstration Town Fund which will invest in cycle paths, road improvements and cycling facilities to increase significantly cycling rate.
- Regional Transport Partnerships will be required to promote cycling in their strategies with ambitious targets to increase the proportion of journeys made by bicycle.
- Pilot Cycle Resource Centres in town and city centres. These Centres will provide secure cycle storage, lockers, showers, changing areas, access to advice on routes and maps, and bike maintenance and repair services.
- We will support increased investment in safe segregated cycle paths, requiring major towns and cities to develop a core network of routes from residential areas to town centres, linking in to Cycle Resource Centres.
- Investigate the opportunities for an annual 'Tour of Scotland' cycle race to promote cycling across Scotland.

Freight

- Scottish freight strategy to support the Scottish haulage industry to get more freight off the roads and on to rail, sea and waterways- more support for small and medium enterprises seeking freight grants.
- Develop a plan to pilot a Freight Consolidation Centre in Scotland- this model works to reduce empty running, consolidate loads and encourage the use of smaller, more environmentally friendly delivery vehicles at appropriate times in built up urban area.
- Considering the feasibility of enhancing capacity on the Glasgow and South Western route to assist freight movements.
- Support the development of container terminals at Hunterston and Scapa Flow to create international shipping hubs.
- Consider the options for development of the deep water ports at Greenock and Grangemouth.

Air

- We will continue to refine the fund to ensure direct air links to key markets, providing it helps to establish a regular service and does not support a cheap flight service where rail alternatives exist.
- We will press for a high speed rail link to London as a means to reduce demand for internal flights.

Ferries and lifeline links

- We will evaluate the trial of the fast ferry across the Forth.
- Examine the extension of our 40 per cent air discount scheme to ferries.
- Carry out a review of CalMac ferry fares to provide more affordable fares for islanders.
- Targeted enhancements and revised fare structures as part of the next tender period for lifeline ferry services.

Reducing the impact of transport

- We will not introduce road user charging in Scotland—we would only consider supporting it in the UK if existing vehicle excise duty and fuel duty are abolished to make the system tax neutral.
- Every major travel generator, such as shopping centres, hospitals, business parks and major tourist destinations, should develop a sustainable transport plan in association with local authorities and regional transport partnerships.
- Councils should be given powers to fine organisations that fail to comply and work to get more people out of their cars.
- Promote more use of flexible and home working to reduce the need for commuting at peak times.
- Transfer the existing funding support for diesel buses to support for more sustainable, less polluting fuels to promote the development of cleaner fuels and vehicles.
- Lobby the UK Government for the speedy implementation of the renewable transport fuels obligation and additional fuel duty incentives for alternative fuels
- Introduce a 'carbon balance sheet' for transport which will present the impact of all Scottish transport policies and projects that are expected to have a significant impact on carbon, whether positive or negative.
- Press for international agreement for aviation to pay its full environmental costs, while protecting lifeline air links.
- Support the application of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to air transport with exemptions only for essential lifeline services to Scotland's remote and island communities.

Rural Development

- > **New Scottish Food and Drink promotion body.**
- > **Support more affordable housing through Community Land Trusts.**
- > **Sustain public services with more co-location and shared services.**
- > **Increase the use of local Scottish produce across the public sector.**
- > **Reforestation and biomass.**
- > **Cut red tape and bureaucracy in agriculture.**

Rural economy

- All policy and legislation 'rural-proofed' for its impact on rural areas.
- Roll out faster broadband connections across rural areas, including use of satellite broadband and piloting local fibre-optic networks.
- Support a network of Remote Worker Centres in rural areas to allowing people to live and work from rural areas without having to commute to urban areas.
- We want to support the industry to meet its ambitious target to grow Scottish tourism by 50 per cent by 2015.
- Support an expansion of the Green Tourism Business Scheme to reward those businesses that rise to the green tourism challenge.
- Provide funding for a programme of investment in local community halls and facilities to act as wider community hubs for a range of services, helping to sustain services including a rural post office network.
- Lobby the UK Government to take action by reducing fuel duty in specific zones of rural Scotland.
- We will deliver an additional 9,000 affordable homes for rent and sale across Scotland each year.
- Support Community Land Trusts empower local people to take action for themselves to meet local housing needs.
- Encourage and promote the conversion of redundant farm buildings and cottages, making it easier to develop redundant farm land for affordable housing.
- Pilot "unplugged" houses, using microgeneration, recycling grey water and other environmental technologies.

Agriculture regulation

- Establish a Better Regulation Group tasked with eliminating unnecessary paperwork, inspections and impractical procedures.
- Where new regulations are brought in, seek to revoke existing regulations that are rendered redundant.
- Campaign for the European Union to categorise errors in applications as obvious, administrative or negligent and to specify penalties that are proportionate so farmers and crofters don't suffer heavy penalties for simple administrative errors when applying for agricultural subsidies.

New entrants to farming

- Review the Agricultural Holdings Act to ensure it is providing sufficient opportunities for new tenants and take further action if necessary
- Work with farmers' groups to develop opportunities for new entrants, considering options such as mixed equity schemes and planning exemptions for retiring farmers to build new homes on the land.
- Support within the Land Management Contracts (LMC) menu to assist new entrants with business training and support, the modernisation and repair of buildings, and the provision or upgrading of infrastructure.

Agriculture support

- Regionalise the assessment and distribution of agri-environmental schemes and support programmes.
- Ensure that the new Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme compensates crofters and farmers in the Islands and outlying rural areas for the extra costs of transport and haulage.
- Continue government support for the wider public benefits of agricultural activity, such as maintaining the landscape and natural heritage and supporting the wider rural economy, up to and beyond 2013.
- Renegotiate Scotland's allocation of rural funding at EU level to give Scotland its fair share as part of the forthcoming review in 2009.
- Support Scotland's crofters to ensure a secure future for crofting with greater accountability and democratisation of the Crofters Commission.
- Implement the recommendations of the Crofter's Inquiry following its completion at the end of 2007.
- We will campaign for changes at Westminster to remove the unfair restrictions that limit the size of milk cooperatives, and permit Scottish dairy farmers to benefit from a move into value added products.
- Support the growing of energy crops and the use of rendered material for biofuel production, short term coppice rotation to augment local biomass heat projects, and the processing of agricultural slurry and other wastes in anaerobic digestors as fuel for local heat projects.

Fisheries

- Task a new Scottish Food and Drink marketing and promotion body with improving the market opportunities for Scottish fish and seafood.
- Continue to drive forward regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy with increased powers to Regional Advisory Councils.
- Ensure the Cod Recovery Plan not only takes account of the science but also takes account of Scotland's mixed fishery.
- Seek to reform the conduct of the EU-Norway negotiations to make the process more open and transparent.
- Increase local control over fisheries, including continuing to press Westminster for the transfer of powers over the seabed from the Crown Estate to local authorities.
- Support the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry diversifying into new species.
- Introduce a Scottish Marine Bill to provide a coherent framework for managing our seas, including measures for marine spatial planning, conservation and sea fisheries.
- We will seek the agreement of Westminster for the Scottish Parliament to have exclusive jurisdiction out to the 200 mile limit over marine spatial planning and marine conservation.
- Build on the wide support, in principle, for a coastal and marine national park.

Quality food

- Support the establishment of a private sector-led Scottish Food and Drink marketing and promotion body with public sector support.
- Work with retailers to promote more use of local, Scottish produce in stores across Scotland.
- Bring more healthy local produce to Scotland's schools by rolling out the East Ayrshire school meals pilot across Scotland.
- New requirements to encourage small local suppliers to bid for more public sector contracts by specifying requirements for freshness, delivery frequency, specific varieties and production standards.
- Scottish Food in the Parliament event to showcase Scottish produce and improve the dialogue between all aspects of the food and drink industry and Scotland's politicians.
- Assist Scotland's burgeoning organic sector and local producers to develop the marketing and branding of their produce to increase consumer demand.

- Work with retailers to increase information on food miles.
- Support the work of the Royal Highland Educational Trust so young people to learn more about where food comes from.

Forestry

- Direct grant funding to support increased reforestation with native species.
- A Biomass Action Plan, to deliver an ambitious programme of expansion in the biomass sector in Scotland.
- promote a major expansion in Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
- Tackle regulations that limit our ability to meet our ambitious biomass plans.

Communities

- > **More affordable housing for sale and rent.**
- > **Small towns regeneration fund.**
- > **Scrap council tax and replace with a fairer local income tax based on ability to pay.**
- > **Support for small independent shops.**
- > **Tackle child poverty.**

Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector

- We will build on the National Volunteering Strategy and develop local strategies in partnership with the voluntary sector.
- Review how we can give more focused support to build capacity in key areas of the voluntary sector particularly for local sports, cultural and youth organisations and clubs.
- Revitalise the Compact between local government and the voluntary sector, which recognises the need for stable funding, the importance of the voluntary sector and its growing potential to help deliver flexible public services with a human face.

Community Regeneration

- Work towards a National Regeneration Fund, creating a joint venture partnership between the public sector and private sector to support infrastructure costs, land remediation, mixed use developments and environmental improvements.
- Roll out of Business Improvement Districts and encourage local authorities to grow their economy by allowing them to retain all business rate receipts generated above a target and trend rather than surrender them to the central pool.
- To encourage the best use of local resources, we will consult on removing or reducing empty property rates relief with local authorities able to keep the proceeds of any additional revenue.

Towns, Suburbs and Public Places

- Introduce a Small Retailers Support Fund. This will allow local authorities to extend discretionary rates relief to 100 per cent for small, independent shops designated as having a vital community benefit.
- Double small business rates relief, this will offer real support to smaller shops.
- Create a regeneration fund to breathe new life into small towns.

Safer Communities

- Pilot the idea of a Neighbourhood Standard where local communities are empowered to look for high standards of design, safety and support in their local city, town or suburban centres, supported by neighbourhood wardens.
- Audits of key walking routes to schools, shops and public transport access points to provide an effective driver for safe roads and pavements, especially for the elderly or disabled or parents with prams.

Greenspace

- Put in place a legislative presumption against the sale of urban greenspace and playing fields for development-In the limited cases where sales are allowed they must demonstrate an overall benefit to the community.
- Every single penny from those sales should go to improving local greenspace and expanding activity opportunities. Playing fields must not be sold to fund other council budgets.

Community power to decide

- Create new models of community management. Where local people have the vision, drive and commitment to manage our public spaces- communities to manage local libraries, parks, sports facilities and other spaces and services where local people want it.

This new model would see local people form appropriate management bodies responsible for day-to-day running, with their own devolved budget, but remaining within the strategic control of the principal local authority.

- Introduce a new 'light touch' programme to help engage communities and give them the power to influence events in their area.
- Introduce local spending plans which set out the details of all government spending in a local authority area by all public agencies, local or national.
- Include an open budget meeting process to involve local people in prioritising local spending.

Housing

- A national review of housing policy to agree the priorities and the way forward for the next 20 years.
- Committed to achieving the 2012 target to abolish all unintentional homelessness.
- We will double the resources available to Homestake in addition to rolling out the 'open market' Homestake' to allow people to buy homes on the market for general sale.
- Deliver an additional 9,000 new affordable homes for rent and sale each year.
- Develop Community Land Trusts to empower local people to take action for themselves to meet local housing needs.
- Encourage local authorities and public agencies to make more land available for affordable housing and set up a new fund to support communities to take advantage of this approach.
- We will encourage and promote the conversion of redundant farm buildings and cottages, making it easier to develop redundant farmland for affordable housing.
- Pilot "unplugged" houses, using microgeneration, recycling grey water and other environmental technologies to develop houses with reduced dependence on mains infrastructure.
- Amend the current Pressurised Area Status (PAS) and Right to Buy (RTB) laws to give local authorities more flexibility
- Give local authorities the power to apply PAS to specific types of housing such as three, four and five bedroom homes where there are often acute shortages in supply-We will also consider the case for more local autonomy in reducing RTB discount.
- Consult on the options for introducing a 'right to sell' whereby social housing could be part financed by the sale of a specified number of units in a new build on the open market.
- We will review the implementation of the landlord registration scheme and continue to support homeowners for the repair and maintenance of their homes.
- Introduce a mandatory national rent deposit scheme.

Tackling poverty

- We will establish a cross-party working group, involving people affected by poverty and their organisations, to explore and address the causes and effects of poverty and wealth inequality in Scotland.
- Introduce a Project Enterprise scheme for Scotland to provide micro-credit, business support, advice and training to people from low income backgrounds to help them to lift themselves out of poverty and break the cycle.

Services for citizens

- Launch a new Service Scotland agenda to develop a one stop shop culture in Scotland's public services -this will be a major culture change. When a citizen comes into contact with the state, there should be a duty on public employees to solve the problem for them, not pass them from one department to another.

Local Taxation

- We want to scrap the unfair council tax and replace it with a fairer local income tax based on the ability to pay.

Older people

- Reviewing the free personal care settlement to ensure that the next spending review is used to address issues of differential implementation across Scotland.
- Committed to implementing and delivering on the initiatives in the new Strategy for an Ageing Population.
- Encourage the formation of local forums for older people to have a say on services in their area, with more engagement from local officials.
- Support an Annual Older People's Assembly in the Scottish Parliament.
- Support projects that encourage more intergenerational contact through schools, volunteering and beyond.
- We will introduce a pilot scheme to support new pathways into enterprise for 50 to 65s to remain economically active, through starting their own business or social enterprises.

Sport, Culture and Tourism

- > £102 million boost for grassroots sport.**
- > Free the arts from excessive government interference.**
- > Support for the Scottish Music Futures Fund.**
- > Full implementation of the National Gaelic Plan.**
- > Grow Scottish tourism by 50 per cent by 2015.**

Sport

- Full support to the 2014 bid to bring the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow and ensure that the benefits are spread across Scotland.
- We will introducing 100 per cent mandatory rate relief for sports clubs which are registered as community amateur sports clubs with the Inland Revenue.
- Changing the system of government support for sport to really benefit clubs. Local authorities will be assessed on how they support sports clubs, rather than just how they provide facilities.
- Councils handing over facilities to communities and focusing on a new role as enablers of club sports.
- Schools must become community hubs allowing local sports clubs affordable access to excellent facilities.
- Cut the cost of access to sport and leisure facilities to help encourage more young people to use the facilities on offer, with funding to support local schemes, particularly during school holidays.
- Fund two new Olympic size swimming pools in Aberdeen and Inverness and support the redevelopment of the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh.
- Fund to support local clubs who work with schools to meet our new target for physical activity of an hour a day for every child.
- We will deliver 1,000 extra sports coaches in Scotland including support for an extra 100 PE teachers and 100 professional coaches to work through our national sports organisations. It will also support, through Active School clusters, 800 full time equivalent voluntary coaches.
- Ring fenced fund to meet the cost to individuals of gaining the new UK Coaching Certificate. (UKCC)
- Support the development of a Scottish Centre of Coaching Excellence to support coach development, education and training and the roll out of the UKCC
- Will deliver £102 million of additional support over the spending review - representing the single largest boost to grassroots sport seen in Scotland for decades.

Arts and culture

- Develop a Scottish Youth Music and Dance Festival to showcase the national youth festivals in the summer.
- Roll out a young creative apprenticeship to give young people hands on experience of performing arts, film, theatre, visual arts, music and design.
- Seek agreement with local authorities to move towards a higher, guaranteed level of investment in the arts.
- Give Creative Scotland more scope to build on the success of Scottish Screen.
- A new Scottish Music Futures Fund to support the music stars of tomorrow
- We will therefore ensure that the legislation that creates the agency does not allow ministers to intervene in decisions that are essentially about artistic judgement.
- We will task Creative Scotland with developing a network of cultural hubs in the community to improve access to facilities.
- Support our National Companies through sustained direct Scottish Executive funding.
- Continue to support music tuition in schools by sustaining the current commitment that all school children should have had access to one year's free music tuition by the time they reach P6.

Scotland's languages

- Full implementation of the recently launched National Plan for Gaelic which sets out a five year roadmap to take the language forward.
- Support the establishment of the Gaelic digital television channel due to be launched later in 2007.
- Improve the availability of Gaelic-medium pre-school, primary and secondary education.
- Improve support for projects that recognise the importance of Scots language.

Tourism

- We want to support the industry to meet its ambitious target to grow Scottish tourism by 50 per cent by 2015.
- Continuing to invest in skills and training, for example through modern apprenticeships.
- Ensure that the Enterprise Networks and VisitScotland support business to develop new visitor experiences and niche markets reflecting our strengths as a destination for golf, outdoor activities, landscape, culture and heritage.
- Ensure that VisitScotland drives forward the use of e-commerce for sales and marketing with continued improvement to the national portal website.
- Use of Destination Management Organisations to help diversify the tourism offering and improve the spread of visitors throughout the year.
- We will support an expansion of the Green Tourism Business Scheme to reward those businesses that rise to the green tourism challenge.
- Promote measures to protect our historic environment

Governance

- > **More powers for the Scottish Parliament.**
- > **New models of engagement with the public.**
- > **Governance of Scotland Commission to consider the division of power between central and local government.**
- > **Second Constitutional Convention to build consensus on new legislative and fiscal powers for the Scottish Parliament.**

More powers for the Scottish Parliament

- Call for a second constitutional convention to consider the best ways to devolve new powers, including taxation powers, to the Scottish Parliament.
- The creation of a joint committee of the Scottish and UK Parliaments, and a new category of powers where the two parliaments should work in partnership.
- Convention should consider the case for applying this approach in areas including regulatory powers, misuse and control of drugs, control of firearms, asylum and immigration, strategic planning of welfare services, and aspects of employment law.
- Scottish Parliament should have exclusive competence over the electoral system, the operation of the Scottish Parliament itself, the civil service, energy policy, transport powers and marine policy.
- Convention should also consider the case for extending the Scottish Parliament's powers over betting and gaming, public and bank holidays, human rights and equalities, and an increased role in governance of broadcasting.
- A new system of fiscal federalism to increase significantly the taxation powers of the Scottish Parliament in order to improve accountability.

The future of governance in Scotland

- We will establish a Governance of Scotland Commission to undertake a comprehensive examination of the structure and operation of the whole public sector, including the quango state.
- Introduce a Governance of Scotland Bill specifically to reserve powers to Scottish Ministers and devolve all others to local government, thereby entrenching the rights of local government.
- The Governance Commission should also consider whether local government should take on more formal powers over primary health care in the future.
- Local authorities must pass responsibility down for services still further to local people.
- Introduce specific targeting of jobs to geographical areas, linked to regional development policy.
- We will review the role of the Lord Advocate with a view to separating the two responsibilities head of an independent prosecution service and chief legal advisor to the Cabinet.

Reforming local government

- Allow councils to draw up their own internal structures. Rather than impose a limited number of models from the centre, councils should be free to decide how they want to organise themselves.
- More councils working together to improve back office functions, learn best practice, and enjoy economies of scale.
- Pilot the development of single public bodies in each of the Island authority areas to deliver more efficient public service.

Scotland's place in Europe

- Where it is appropriate Scottish Ministers should lead UK delegations at EU Council meetings, as Scottish Liberal Democrat Ministers have already done.

Rethinking democracy

- See the government consultation process reformed, government to go to people and engage with them, particularly with those who will be most affected.
- The introduction of open budget meetings to increase significantly public understanding and involvement in local budget decisions.
- Placing a duty on all public bodies to ensure genuine public involvement rather than simply consultation.