

# Working Together for a Prosperous and Sustainable Scotland

## 5 Introduction

This will be a difficult year not just in Scotland, but in all countries. Because the world is more interconnected, the financial downturn is happening globally. Problems in one country quickly impact on others, and the effects of the credit crunch are felt worldwide.

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**Creating a fairer and more prosperous and sustainable Scotland will define Scottish Labour's policy.**

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In Westminster, Labour is taking real action to protect jobs, homes, savings and businesses, and to work towards regaining financial stability. We have provided extra money for pensioners and our intervention in the banking sector is designed to aid the whole economy – not failed bankers – while long-term international reforms to the financial system are put in place. It is vital that the Scottish Parliament also takes whatever action necessary to support Scottish people through this economic downturn.

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In order to meet the challenges that face the Scottish economy, we must ensure that Labour engages with Scottish people and reflects the expectations they hold. In doing so, Scottish Labour will do all we can to boost the economy, encourage the development of skills, and create jobs. We also want to make sure that Scotland plays its part in creating a fairer world and in particular, fulfils its contribution to tackling climate change.

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## Labour delivered for the people of Scotland

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Scotland has transformed from the damage caused by the years the Tories spent in office. The results of Labour in government are significant.

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With Labour, over a quarter of a million more people in Scotland were in work by 2007. Scotland had the highest employment rate in the UK and business rates had been held steady in order to help and support Scottish businesses. Our commitment to skills training delivered over 34,000 modern apprenticeships in Scotland, two years ahead of schedule.

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Our commitment to recycling and renewable energy led to the creation of the Strategic Waste Fund, helping local councils transform our low recycling levels. We doubled the generation of renewable energy, achieving our target five years early. With Labour, Scotland was well on track to ensuring 50% of our electricity comes from renewables by 2020. Following on from the G8 summit in Gleneagles, where Labour placed the war against international poverty top of the agenda, we made a strong commitment to tackle climate change, placing Scotland and the UK in the vanguard of the international movement to implement the Kyoto agreement.

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The UK government's commitment to an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 sets a standard which other governments are following. Scottish Labour made our own contribution by reducing emissions during our period in office, developing green jobs and strategies which left Scotland well placed to contribute to climate change targets.

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Rural communities must be economically successful and thriving. In power, Labour worked hard to improve life in rural Scotland, with broadband connectivity and an increase in jobs. We delivered £26 million for the Rural Transport Fund to support lifeline services including ferries, and introduced 10 new ferries to develop links to the Northern and Western Isles.

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Scottish Labour introduced the national free bus pass, benefiting hundreds of thousands of pensioners, and invested massively in transport infrastructure, from the £300m in 1999, to the £1.6 billion spent in 2007. By then, more than 70 per cent of transport funding was invested in the public transport system.

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Scotland saw the number of rail passengers, increase to the highest level in forty years, supporting our contribution to tackling climate change and protecting Scotland's environment. Scottish Labour created links from Stirling to Alloa, Larkhall to Milngavie, substantially upgraded Waverly station, and pledged investment for a Bathgate to Airdrie line.

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Between 1995 and 2000, income generated from the tourist industry in Scotland barely changed. But with Scottish Labour, between the years 2000 and 2005, income from tourism grew by over 20 per cent.

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We remain committed to strengthening local government in Scotland. With Labour, Scotland benefited from a 55 per cent increase in local government funding, improving quality and at last offering stability in the provision of local services by councils and the voluntary sector. Scottish Labour also channelled resources through local government to tackle poverty and deprivation, school regeneration and community safety. We put local government at heart of community planning, bringing together all the different partners, working to focus resources on tackling the key issues facing local people. Links between health services and local government services delivered significant improvements. We also introduced "best value", to secure the continuous improvement in delivering services.

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Labour also introduced the Planning Act, which saw the most radical reform of the Planning System in Scotland in 60 years. The Act revitalised the development planning system, to strike a balance between the needs of a community, their involvement and the development of a strong and vibrant economy, while also accelerating the decision-making process. The housing and planning systems were also aligned together, so as to more effectively support the provision of housing and other developments where they were most needed.

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## 45 **Now Scotland is at risk**

Labour in Westminster is dealing with the global financial crisis with a clear sense of purpose, determined to take whatever action is necessary so that we emerge stronger. We know that 2009 is a year when Scots are looking for action, protection and reassurance.

5 The economic crisis affects workplaces, families and communities across Scotland, yet the SNP appear to understand neither the urgency nor the scale of the challenge. Despite the crisis facing Scotland, the SNP's budget was altered by less than 1% to face the current credit crunch. Where other countries are responding, the SNP preach about failed models such as Iceland. Labour will create a fairer Scotland and boost jobs and the economy.

To sustain employment, we must invest in industries such as tourism and construction, which are being ignored by the SNP.

10 Our construction industry is crying out for help, yet it is vital that policies are adopted to accommodate the economic downturn. The inability of the SNP to make their Scottish Futures Trust work means local authorities and health boards can no longer plan new schools and hospitals because there is no funding model in place.

15 The dearth of new projects in the pipeline is damaging the construction industry, with 20,000 construction job losses as a result of the downturn in the construction engineering sector and the collapse of the private housing sector. The SNP is building 25% fewer houses in the current financial year than Labour had agreed to fund in the previous financial year, despite huge demand for new homes and the need to maintain support for building new  
20 public sector houses.

More inaction from the SNP means no new schools are in the pipeline. At present, construction projects with a total value of more than £1.5 billion are on hold in Scotland. Now is no time for complacency. It is crucial that action is taken to bring forward capital  
25 investment and keep as many people as possible in work.

The decline of Scottish manufacturing, which still employs over 200,000 workers, is of great concern. The SNP government's decision not to include this sector in their six- point economic action plan is simply bizarre. Capital investment under the SNP has plummeted by  
30 £1 billion in just one year.

It is only fair that homeowners in Scotland receive the same protection that is being offered to those south of the border. In January, the SNP announced a group to recommend ways to study debt relief and debt advice. Now is not the time for another review. This is time to take serious action to support and protect Scots during the financial downturn.

35 In the current climate, public procurement must play a more advanced role in developing the industry by ensuring that – within the parameters of European regulations – public bodies seek to support local manufacturers.

Both this year and last, apprenticeships were Labour's top priority in the changes we fought to make in the SNP government's budget. We know that Scotland's future is crucially  
40 dependent on the skills and knowledge of all our people, so everyone can realise their full potential. In England, Labour is ensuring that every suitably qualified 16-18 year old person is guaranteed the right to an apprenticeship. In Scotland, Glasgow City Council is leading the way as part of the Commonwealth Games plan by offering apprenticeships to school-leavers this year. Labour seeks to bring that benefit to all of Scotland by introducing an  
45 apprenticeship bill which will provide opportunity to another generation of young Scots.

5 In stark contrast, the SNP has shown no commitment to giving people the skills they need to get a job, repeatedly failing to bring forward a strategy. The changes Labour forced to the budget for 2009/10 have secured an extra 7,800 apprenticeships. Because we believe in fair rules, we also demanded and won protection for those apprentices who may lose their job, ensuring that if made redundant, an apprentice can finish their training elsewhere.

10 Improving the energy performance of our homes is crucial in the fight against climate change and tackling fuel poverty. It is vital that the SNP do not push ahead with proposals to hinder the planning of micro-renewable technology, which will prevent householders installing renewables such as mini wind turbines and heat pumps any closer than 100 meters from the nearest building. This proposal comes in spite of the fact that our homes account for around one third of Scotland's energy demand and emissions.

15 Furthermore, robust energy efficiency and renewable generation measures are missing from the Climate Change Bill. Labour have been campaigning for a £100 reduction in council tax and for on-site renewables to be included in all developments.

20 The SNP claim the Scottish Climate Change Bill is world-leading, even though it commits to the same reduction as the UK bill. But Scotland has greater potential than other parts of the UK for renewables because of its natural resources including wind, wave, and hydro power. We want to make the most of these resources, which can help create jobs in Scotland as well as tackle climate change. The SNP is deferring the vital early action needed to build a renewables industry in Scotland and its irresponsibly low targets for emissions reductions between now and 2020 mean Scotland is lagging behind.

25 Before the 2007 election, the SNP promised 3% annual reductions in emissions – then after the election said that 3% could only be achieved by 2020, setting lower, unspecified targets for the next 10 years. Every climate change scientist is agreed that early action is vital, but the SNP only offer excuses.

30 They are also renegeing on other commitments to reduce transport emissions and the inclusion of aviation and shipping in emissions targets. On climate change, there is a huge gap between what the SNP said they would do and their decisions in government, which are increasing emissions as a result of their proposed road-building programme, their blinkered stance on energy generation and their failure to take forward energy efficiency schemes to benefit householders.

35 The SNP's ideological opposition to replacing current nuclear supply with new nuclear plants on the same sites – failing to make the best use of Scotland's assets – is exposing Scotland to the risk of becoming an importer rather than an exporter of energy.

40 Alex Salmond's own economic and environmental advisors recommended that there should be an independent assessment of Scotland's future energy needs, and that nuclear power should be examined as one of the possible options.

45 The SNP lag behind the UK government in securing funding and co-operation from energy suppliers to provide grant-assisted loft and cavity wall insulation and other schemes that reduce energy use and increase warmth. Labour wants to see much more effort put into

improving the energy performance of our homes in the fight against fuel poverty and as a contribution towards tackling climate change.

5 Labour knows that these are difficult times for farmers and crofters in Scotland. Farmers are struggling from falling livestock numbers and complicated grant schemes from the SNP, who are providing little support to the industry.

10 The dairy industry could be on the verge of a meltdown. Scottish Labour wants milk producers, retailers and politicians from all parties to address the concerns over falling prices in the current market conditions. Scotland must have a plan of action to support the industry through this difficult time, and to ensure we are able to maintain a healthy supply of milk.

15 The SNP have failed to address the challenge of improving the availability of rural housing and public transport. They have also cut investment in HIE and put vital rural services at risk by not providing sufficient services for health and local government services. The SNP's proposal to privatise 25% of Scotland's publicly owned forests has been met with outrage. The SNP's plans threaten public access, wildlife projects and put jobs at risk.

20 The SNP's plans for a replacement Forth crossing lack a viable funding strategy and have failed to convince those who will rely on the new crossing most. The proposal to construct a road-only bridge, with the existing bridge becoming a bus corridor, is half-baked. It means the new bridge will have no more capacity than the existing crossing while the old bridge will carry just 33 vehicles an hour at huge expense. If the deterioration of the existing bridge cannot be slowed, and it can no longer be used, the new bridge will not be capable of multi-modal use, making commuters more car-dependent. There is no future-proofing built into the scheme which is a political rather than an engineering solution.

30 The Strategic Transport Projects Review is a lengthy wish-list, giving communities a name check but no certainty that improvement schemes will be built. SNP promises in the North East and the Highlands such as its commitment to the Elgin by-pass and the Inverness Trunk Link road are being renegeed on, and there is a serious lack of interventions planned to tackle congestion, especially in the central belt, where traffic problems are most acute. Local communities deserve fair answers to the campaigns for better transport.

35 Local and regional road improvement and rail infrastructure schemes are being squeezed in favour of flagship projects, many of which have very limited economic benefits, but are favoured by the SNP on political grounds. The SNP introduced their Road Equivalent Tariff pilot on some ferry routes, but excluded passengers travelling to other Scottish islands, leaving them angry at being unfairly disadvantaged.

40 They told communities, including those waiting for improvements on the A82, that they would deliver these projects. But once voted in, they avoid giving any timescale or financial commitment, and in some instances, pretended the promises were never made.

45 The SNP show no signs of promoting public transport, preferring road to rail, and they have also reduced funding to support bus operators, which has affected service levels. The Glasgow Crossrail scheme has been left out of the programme or deferred so long that there is little likelihood of vital rail investment being taken forward. They have removed funding

from schemes to build cycle paths and promote cycling and walking, despite the health and climate change benefits of these forms of active travel.

5 The funding requirements of the new Forth crossing mean that other vital schemes are now in jeopardy because the SNP has already spent the £900 million Scotland had on account when they came to power. Instead of earmarking the money to cover part of the cost of Scotland's most vital infrastructure projects, they chose to freeze council tax and introduce the small business bonus, making common cause with the Tories. The SNP talk big on transport but deliver little. In government their only future spending commitment is the  
10 Forth bridge – a scheme for which their funding plans are in tatters.

Scotland's tourist industry is being neglected by the SNP government and there is considerable underfunding, particularly in relation to skills.

15 The mismanagement of Homecoming is fast becoming a national embarrassment, with industry leaders describing its funding as 'pretty modest', and the complete failure to market it properly around the world.

20 The local government concordat masks the real underfunding of local government and is an attempt to shift SNP manifesto pledges onto local government. Some councils now think it a clear strategy to blame local government for the lack of delivery of pledges, whilst not providing sufficient resources for their implementation.

25 As a result of current policies and funding, councils are already having to cut services, such as the cuts in services for the elderly in Fife and the crisis in Aberdeen.

The SNP's chaotic handling of local income tax – dumping it now but seeking to reintroduce it in the future – exposes their incompetence and lack of direction.

30 We remain staunchly opposed to proposals for a local income tax because they are unfair. As long as the SNP remain wedded to the idea, it remains a threat hanging over Scottish families and businesses.

## 35 Discussion for the Future

### Finance and the economy

40 In the global economic crisis, the Labour Government is leading the world in its response to the downturn. The swift action to restore stability in the banking system combined with measures to put money into the pockets of Scottish families and our efforts to create and sustain jobs will ensure that we can emerge stronger together. We must ensure that our policies in Scotland support that aim too. Our plans must create a fairer Scotland, with  
45 certainty that they are sustained.

- Should we promote the idea of an "aspirational living wage in Scotland" within the context of and complementing the National Minimum Wage?
- Is this relevant to Scotland?

- How would such a living wage be set, encouraged and enforced, and who would it apply to?
- Could policies on apprenticeships be tied into wages?
- How do we create policies that will best promote training and the development of skills?
- 5 • What devolved powers should be utilised to contribute towards economic recovery and financial transparency?
- What industrial investment and reconstruction institutional framework is now appropriate to build sustainable economic development in the future?
- How do we best support and retrain those who have lost their jobs?
- 10 • What measures should we take to support and develop small businesses in Scotland?
- What more can be done to support innovation and business start up?
- What more can be done to ensure that more benefit is gained from university research and commercialisation into the wider economy?
- How do we support our key industries and how do we ensure that all of Scotland
- 15 benefits from economic growth fairly?
- What more can we do for those individuals who get into financial difficulty?

It is essential that we support manufacturing in Scotland so as to rebalance the economy. The “green agenda” offers a major opportunity to revitalise the manufacturing industry in Scotland and create a more productive economy.

- How do we couple our manufacturing policy with a skills strategy that will ensure sustainable growth of employment and the economy?
- 25 Scottish Labour should investigate the most appropriate gauge of sustainable development and quality of life which could run parallel and complementary to GDP. Further discussion is required regarding supporting particular types of business models such as co-operatives, mutuals and credit unions.
- 30 • What more can be done to develop alternative business models which remove the short sightedness and quarterly share holder interests and replace them with more long term interests of the businesses, the employees and the community?

Government intervention in training and skills should have a definitive structure, for example:

- Stage 1. Corrective measures in the economy.
- Stage 2. A proactive, interventionist approach to specific industry decline.
- Stage 3. Government support for the recently unemployed to retrain and re-skill.
- 40 Stage 4. Reaction to poverty and the symptoms of unemployment.

Scottish Labour recognises that industries such as construction and finance play an imperative role in shaping the Scottish economy, but we know the challenges they face in the current economic climate. As a result, our future policy must take such industries into serious consideration when creating a fairer Scotland.

- What measures can we take to prevent and limit any future struggles the Scottish economy may face?

5 We have the opportunity, when considering funding of construction projects across Scotland, 50% of which comes from the public purse, to examine issues around direct employment and employment rights. False employment or bogus self employment drains money out of the UK economy in lost taxes and national insurance contributions every year.

- What ways can we use public procurement policy to build a fairer Scotland?
- How can we work with trade unions, employers and businesses to ensure equal employment rights are implemented in the workplace?

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### Enterprise agencies

15 The SNP has reduced funding for Scottish Enterprise and narrowed its role, giving it much less scope to contribute to regeneration, while HIE has been left with its previous responsibilities. Any structural changes to the remit of enterprise agencies should lead to a change of focus from its current business focus model.

- 20 • How should enterprise agencies relate to and support small, medium and large businesses?
- How can enterprise agencies and government support innovation in the economy in Scotland?
- 25 • How will our future policy ensure that sustainable development will benefit individuals as well as businesses?
- What role should enterprise agencies play in contributing to regeneration and sustainable development?
- Is the current model localised enough?

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We must ensure that local regeneration developments do not suffer as a result of the downturn or the prohibitive settlement from the SNP administration. Investment in housing, community regeneration and public services must ensure that no one is disadvantaged by where they live.

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Planning, housing and regeneration policies cannot be considered in isolation from one another if we are to help boost our economy during the current financial downturn.

- 40 • How do we best involve local communities in the regeneration of their areas so as to ensure that facilities benefit the local and individual requirements of a particular area?
- How can regeneration also incorporate the environmental challenges that Scotland faces?
- 45 • How can we best encourage every person and sector in Scotland to play a role in creating better attitudes towards the preservation of our environment at all levels?

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) provides a better and more effective model to be analysed, and perhaps some aspects could be replicated across Scotland. A key concept of this type of government intervention is sustainable development.

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- How do we best consider the HIE model and how do we go about learning the lessons of its delivery across Scotland?

10 Third sector

Scottish Labour recognises the tremendous contribution the third sector makes in Scotland.

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- How can we further support the third sector in their work?
  - How can we best encourage people to help their communities and themselves?
  - How do we promote democratic business models in the third sector such as co-ops and mutuals?

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Green jobs

We can make Scotland fairer by greening the whole economy and making every job a green job. Scotland must be ready to respond to the changing needs of the economy by promoting new technology in the context of climate change.

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- How do we best develop renewable and other green industries?
  - How can we create incentives to encourage employers into this sector?
  - How can we support apprenticeships in the green jobs sector and in rural firms?
  - How do we promote careers in this industry through schools or careers advice services?
  - Should we have robust green procurement criteria for public bodies?
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35 Sustainable, green output, with environmentally conscious technology is popular and desirable.

- How can we develop and encourage Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) institutions to provide the necessary type of skills and training required to fully establish and sustain this type of sector?
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- Unite the Union has produced a template plan for the future of the finance sector. Can we develop a similar policy for the green industry?

45 The retail sector and town centres

Scottish Labour knows the retail sector is under pressure and that is why we forced the SNP government to set up a Town Centre Regeneration Fund of £60m. We also know that

traditional town centres are struggling while out-of-town shopping increases. Supporting town centres requires specific measures as part of a national strategy for the promotion of local employment and businesses.

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- What specific measures will assist this process?
  - How should support for town centres regeneration?

### Skills and training

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Scotland's workforce must have the necessary skills so Scotland can compete in the global economy. We know that there are skills that young people cannot learn in classrooms which are necessary for the future prosperity of Scotland. Apprenticeships and vocational opportunities are key to this.

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- How do we promote modern apprenticeships more effectively to young people in Scotland?
- How do we expand opportunities for up-skilling and retraining?
- How do we expand adult apprenticeships and work-based learning?
- How do we support employees to access training and development opportunities in the work place?
- Given the need for a nationwide retraining and skill development framework, is the Education and Lifelong Learning Department the right vehicle to deal with the challenges faced as a result of redundancies and rising unemployment?
- How do we develop a nationwide framework to boost the economy and create sustainable employment?

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In order to address the challenges we presently face, Scottish Labour will look towards more preventative action, before the fear and prospect of redundancy becomes a reality.

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- How soon do we integrate preventative action into our policies?

Further Education has a central role to play in the development of Labour's skills and training framework so in order to attract companies to an area and subsequently create sustainable employment.

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- How do we match the output of Further Education with the changing needs of the economy?
- How do we ensure that vocational training through Further Education is dictated by the needs and requirements of both the local and national economy?
- How do we balance the needs of individual students with the needs of the economy?
- What steps do Further Education colleges need to take to make courses more accessible?

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### Climate Change

Since climate change remains the most serious, long-term challenge that our planet faces, Scottish Labour knows that the preservation of our environment must resonate throughout our entire policy agenda.

5 Scottish Labour has, and will continue to ensure that Scotland remains at the forefront of this debate, and Labour will continue to champion this cause.

- What are the solutions that will enable us to combine economic stimulus while addressing the challenge of climate change?
- 10 • How do we formulate policy so we manage and nurture economic stimulation, while simultaneously providing incentives for businesses to engage with the climate change agenda?
- How do we support companies small and large through the transition to low carbon economy?
- 15 • How can co-operatives be involved in developing strategies to tackle climate change?
- What short and medium term targets should be set to reduce green house gas omission?
- What are the main obstacles to be overcome in reaching those targets?
- 20 • How can trade unions be involved in developing strategies to tackle climate change?
- How do we keep energy consumption in the work place to a minimum?

25 Because we believe in a fairer Scotland, we will lead the way on issues such as green jobs, the promotion of home insulation and community renewable projects to combat rising energy costs and the retention and re-skilling of individuals.

We want Scotland to remain a net exporter of energy. As we move beyond the carbon economy, Scottish Labour needs to continue the serious, balanced debate taking account of the scientific evidence about future energy provision and the requirements of Scotland.

- 30 • How do we capitalise on Scotland's national resource and balance traditional forms of energy with renewable or clean coal alternatives?
- Should we rule out any viable existing energy sources that can match the criteria of high generation / low emissions?
- 35 • How do best stabilise rising energy costs?
- What can we do to work together to protect consumers from the risk of future, soaring price rises?
- How do we protect those who are at particular risk of fuel poverty from future soaring price rises?
- 40 • How do we keep domestic and business energy consumption to a minimum?

### Rural Scotland

45 It is our ambition to see a fairer Scotland where no one is disadvantaged by where they live, and we will not see our rural communities overlooked.

Labour believes that sustainability should be as much a priority in rural areas as it is in urban areas, particularly in employment. The sustainability of lifeline ferry services is crucial to rural communities and to the rural economy.

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- How can we improve transport infrastructure so as to support rural livelihoods and allow for the creation of sustainable jobs for those living in our rural communities?
  - Should we support the ongoing campaign to expand the number of ferry routes and for fair pricing policies?

10 The Forestry Commission is a vital employer in some of our most economically fragile rural areas. With private companies seeking to maximise profit from cutting rights, there are risks that companies will consider downsizing in order to reduce costs.

15 The Forestry Commission trade unions believe the SNP's proposals to privatise our forests present a major challenge to jobs, the integrity of the Forestry Commission in Scotland and the sustainability of the sector. Scottish Labour believes the leasing or sale of cutting rights on large areas of FCS land will be deprive 18 future Scottish governments of vital income.

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- Should Labour's priority be to expand and make the most of our national forest estate by encouraging joint renewable ventures led by the Forestry Commission to generate power and income for future public investment?
  - Is a broad rural strategy difficult to achieve given the geographical differences in the areas termed "rural Scotland"? For example, would an Economic Development Strategy in the South of Scotland be different from that of the Highlands?
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- How do we best formulate policies to suit our diverse communities throughout "rural Scotland"?
  - What role should the agricultural wages board play in supporting pay levels for workers in rural Scotland?

## 30 Transport

Although the national regulation and ownership of public transport has been settled, it has only been settled in the short-term. Scottish Labour policy must take fully into account every possible form of ownership, including public, private and not for profit.

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- Who should be given ownership of public transport at a national, regional and local community level?
  - What kinds of regulation are required to ensure public accountability where there is private ownership of public transport?
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- How do we deal with market failure which makes public transport provision inadequate or unavailable?

45 When formulating our future transport policies, Scottish Labour intends to give full consideration to the environmental impacts. Firstly, we must consider how to improve public transport services and then how to best promote and emphasise the benefits of travelling and commuting via public transport.

- What measures can be taken to place the onus on employers to encourage employees to travel via public transport, or to promote car sharing wherever possible?
- 5 • Should concessionary travel be expanded to cover community transport and to include those on the lower rate of disability allowance and/or all under 18s in full time education?
- What can be done to increase active travel like cycling and walking?
- What priorities should be given to tackling congestion in developing a future transport investment strategy?
- 10 • Should Labour do more to reduce journey times and increase access to rail transport?
- Should Labour prioritise integrated ticketing and timetabling services for buses and trains?

15 Tourism

Given the importance of tourism and the contribution the industry makes to the Scottish economy, Labour must take the aspects of training, service expectations and seasonal demand into consideration when formulating policies which relate to the tourist industry.

- 20 • How do we improve the promotion of Scotland as a holiday and tourist destination?
- How will policies in this area reflect the challenges of low and seasonal pay within the sector?
- 25 • How do we train the Scottish workforce to better meet service expectations? Do we, for example, have schools of excellence and Further Education institutions specialising in this sector?
- How do we best promote Scotland’s tourist industry to potential employers and tourists?
- 30 • Labour have forced the SNP to reverse the abolition of all adult modern apprentices in the Scottish tourist industry. What more should we do to encourage individuals to embark on a career in this sector?

35 Local Government

In relation to the financing of local services, Labour remains firmly opposed to any form of local income tax, and remains fully committed to a property-based form of taxation. However, in making Scotland fairer and more prosperous, Scottish Labour would like to see the fairness, proportionality and stability of the council tax improved.

- 40 • What should be done to make the council tax fairer and more accountable?
- What can be done to protect local government jobs and services?
- What alternative should Labour propose to the SNP’s concordat in managing the relationship between Holyrood and local government?
- 45 • What can be done to undo the damage caused to the third sector in many local authorities as a consequence of the SNP government relationship with local councils?