

## General Election 2024 manifesto commitments; infrastructure, energy, water and transport

### Conservative Party

#### 1. Delivering energy security

- Legislate to ensure **annual licensing rounds for oil and gas** production from the North Sea to provide energy to homes and businesses.
- **Treble offshore wind capacity**, to deliver low-cost, home-grown energy and support the development of industrial clusters in places like the North East of England, Scotland and Wales; back up renewables and prevent the prospect of blackouts with new gas power stations.
- Build the first two **carbon capture and storage clusters**, based across North Wales and, the North West of England and Teesside and the Humber.
- Invest **£1.1 billion into the Green Industries Growth Accelerator** to support British manufacturing capabilities, boost supply chains and ensure the energy transition “is made in Britain”.
- Scale up nuclear power, building on work establishing **Great British Nuclear**, including approving two new fleets of Small Modular Reactors within the first 100 days.

#### 2. Transport

- **Deploy automated vehicles on British roads** in the next Parliament, harnessing the Automated Vehicles Act.
- **Stop road pricing**, reversing the London Mayor’s ULEZ expansion and applying local referendums to new 20mph zones and Low Traffic Neighborhoods.
- Support the **transition to electric vehicles** by ensuring **charging infrastructure is truly nationwide**, including rapid charging and delivering the Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate.
- Support the growth and decarbonisation of the aviation sector by backing British **Sustainable Aviation Fuel through the SAF mandate**, backing the **decarbonisation of shipping** and fostering science and innovation expertise in the **space industry**.

#### 3. Infrastructure and manufacturing

- **All populated areas to be covered by ‘standalone’ 5G** mobile connectivity and keeping the UK at the forefront of **adopting and developing 6G**.
- Continue investing over **£1.5 billion in large-scale compute clusters**. Push forward with the **Advanced Manufacturing Plan**, providing a £4. billion commitment to secure strategic manufacturing sectors.

- **Reform planning to speed up infrastructure delivery**, increasing the average time taken to sign-off projects from four years to one year.
  - Reforms to EU 'red-tape' and it's environmental impact assessment.
  - Amending the law so judicial reviews that don't have merit do not waste court time.
  - Allowing quicker changes to consented projects.
- **Complete HS2** between London Euston and the West Midlands and support the growth of the rail freight sector.
- **Spend £36bn of HS2 savings** to invest:
  - £4.7 billion for smaller cities, towns and rural areas in the North and Midland to spend on their transport priorities
  - £8.3 billion of investment to fill potholes and resurface roads
  - Back our city regions with an additional £8.55 billion to spend on their local priorities. Scrap rules that stop Mayors investing in strategic roads.
  - Deliver plan for Northern Powerhouse Rail, including a set of electrification, upgrade and new station projects across the North, Midlands, South West and North Wales.

#### 4. Water

- Working with the regulator to further hold companies to account, including **banning executive bonuses** if a company has committed a serious criminal breach.
- Extending the £50 water rebate for those in the South West across the Parliament.
- Using fines **from water companies to invest in river restoration projects**, including linking up thriving habitats to multiply the benefits for wildlife and water quality.
- **Reform the 'Price Review' regulatory process for water companies.**

## Labour Party

### 1. Transport

- Support **the transition to electric vehicles** by accelerating the roll out of charge points, giving certainty to manufacturers by restoring the phase-out date of 2030.
- **Reforming the railways** and bringing them into public ownership.
  - Great British Railways (GBR) will provide a unified system prioritising reliability, affordability, quality, efficiency, safety, and accessibility.
  - GBR will manage investment, daily operations, innovations, and improvements for passengers.

- Collaboration with publicly-owned rail operators in Wales and Scotland is emphasised.
- Mayors will help design local rail services.
- GBR has a duty to promote and expand rail freight usage.
- Open access operators will continue to be a key component of the rail system.
- A new, stringent passenger watchdog will be established to enhance standards.
- **Franchise local bus services**, and lift the ban on municipal ownership.
- **Mayors will be given the power to create unified and integrated transport systems**, allowing for more seamless journeys, and to promote active travel networks.
- **secure the UK aviation industry's long-term future**, including through promoting sustainable aviation fuels, and encouraging airspace modernisation.
- £1.8 billion to **upgrade ports and build supply chains** across the UK.
- £1.5 billion to **new gigafactories so our automotive industry** leads the world.

## 2. Make Britain a clean energy superpower

- **Clean power by 2030**
  - **Double onshore wind, triple solar power, and quadruple offshore wind** by 2030, in collaboration with private sector.
  - Investment in **carbon capture and storage, hydrogen and marine energy**, and ensure we have the **long-term energy storage**.
  - **A new Energy Independence Act** will establish the framework for Labour's energy and climate policies.
  - Commitment to completing Hinkley Point C and developing new plants like Sizewell C and Small Modular Reactors.
  - **No new licences for exploring new oil fields**, as they won't lower bills, ensure energy security, or mitigate the climate crisis.
  - **Ban on new coal licences** and a permanent ban on fracking.
  - Extending the Energy Profits Levy sunset clause, increasing its rate, and removing excessive investment allowances.
  - Retention of the Energy Security Investment Mechanism.
- **Great British Energy**
  - Labour will establish **a new publicly-owned company, Great British Energy**, to drive investment in clean, home-grown energy production - owned by the British.
  - The company will partner with industry and trade unions to co-invest in leading technologies and support capital-intensive projects.
  - Capitalise **Great British Energy with £8.3 billion** over the next parliament.

- Local Power Plan will deploy more distributed production capacity.
- Great British Energy will collaborate with energy companies, local authorities, and co-operatives to install thousands of clean power projects.
- Projects will include **onshore wind, solar, and hydropower**.
- Communities will be invited to propose projects, and local leaders and devolved governments will ensure local benefits from energy production.

- **The Energy System**

- Address the high burden **of standing charges on energy bills** in collaboration with the regulator.
  - The current **national grid is obstructing the deployment of cheap, clean power and industrial electrification**.
  - Collaborate with industry to upgrade **the national transmission infrastructure** and rewire Britain, addressing delays in grid connection dates.
- £1 billion to accelerate the deployment **of carbon capture**.
  - £500 million to support the manufacturing of **green hydrogen**.

## 5. Infrastructure

- **Planning:**
  - Will ensure our industrial strategy supports the development of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector, **removes planning barriers to new datacentres**.
  - Ensure that planning authorities have up-to-date Local Plans and reform and strengthen the presumption in favour of sustainable development.
  - **Update national planning policy** to ensure the planning system meets the needs of a modern economy, making it easier to build laboratories, digital infrastructure, and gigafactories.
  - **Funding additional planning officers**.
  - Give Combined Authorities new planning powers along with new freedoms and flexibilities to make better use of grant funding.
- Develop **a ten-year infrastructure strategy**, aligned with industrial strategy and regional development priorities, including **improving rail connectivity** across the north of England.
- Create a **new National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority**, bringing together existing bodies, to set strategic infrastructure priorities and oversee the design, scope, and delivery of projects.

- Set out new national policy statements, **make major projects faster and cheaper** by slashing red tape, and build support for developments by ensuring communities directly benefit.
- Make a renewed push to fulfil the ambition **of full gigabit and national 5G coverage** by 2030.
- **Create a new Regulatory Innovation Office**, bringing together existing functions across government to stimulate innovation.

## 6. Water

- Illegal sewage dumping is polluting Britain's coasts, rivers, and lakes.
- Labour will put failing water companies under special measures to clean up water bodies.
- Regulators will be empowered to block bonuses for executives whose companies pollute waterways.
- Persistent lawbreakers will face criminal charges.
- Automatic and severe fines will be imposed for violations.

## Liberal Democrats

### 1. Climate Change and Energy

- Cut greenhouse gas emissions to **net zero by 2045 at the latest**, making the UK the **world leader in the clean technologies of the future**.
- Invest in renewable power so that **90% of the UK's electricity is generated from renewables by 2030**.
- **Appoint a Chief Secretary for Sustainability in the Treasury** to ensure that the economy is sustainable, resource-efficient and zero-carbon, establish a new **Net Zero Delivery Authority** to coordinate action across government departments and work with devolved administrations, and hand more powers and resources to local councils for local net zero strategies.
- Give a clearer **zero-carbon remit to the UK Infrastructure Bank**.
- Creating a **Joint Climate Council of the Nations** to tackle the climate emergency by helping to foster innovation and encourage collaborative action.
- Ten-year **emergency upgrade programme**, starting with free insulation and heat pumps for those on low incomes, and ensure that all new homes are zero-carbon.

### 2. Transport

- Supporting the **transition to electric vehicles by rolling out “far more” charging points**, reintroducing the plug-in car grant, and **restoring the requirement that every new car and small van sold from 2030 is zero-emission**.
  - Supporting new charging points with an upgraded National Grid and a step-change in local grid capacity.
  - Cutting VAT on public charging to 5%.
  - Requiring all charging points to be accessible with a bank card.
- Freeze rail fares and **simplify ticketing on public transport** to ensure regular users are paying fair and affordable prices.
- Significantly **extend the electrification of Britain’s rail network**, improve stations, greatly improve disabled access, reopen smaller stations and deliver Northern Powerhouse rail.
  - **Establishing a new Railway Agency**: a public body which would help to join up the industry – from track to train – putting commuters first, holding train companies to account, and bringing in wholesale reform of the broken fare system.
- Boost bus services by giving **local authorities more powers to franchise services** and simplifying funding, so that bus routes can be restored or new routes added where there is local need, especially in rural areas.
  - Replacing multiple funding streams with one integrated fund for local authorities for expanding bus services and switching to zero-emission vehicles.
  - Extending current programmes to encourage local authorities and bus operators to switch entirely to zero-emission buses.
- Transform how people travel by creating new cycling and walking networks with a **new nationwide active travel strategy**.
- Give **more of the roads budget to local councils** to maintain existing roads, pavements and cycleways, including repairing potholes.
  - Devolve greater decision-making powers and resources to local authorities in England to design public transport infrastructure around community needs, including powers to introduce network-wide ticketing as in London.
- Work to **integrate bus, rail and light rail ticketing systems** so that a daily fare cap can be introduced for those taking several trips per day.
- Invest in research and development to **make the UK the world leader in zero-carbon flight**, and take steps to reduce demand for flying.
  - Introducing a new super tax on private jet flights, and removing the VAT exemptions for private, first-class and business-class flights.
  - Requiring airlines to show the carbon emissions for domestic flights compared to the equivalent rail option at booking.
  - Banning short domestic flights where a direct rail option taking less than 2.5 hours is available for the same journey, unless planes are alternative-fueled.

### 3. Infrastructure

- Ensuring that **gigabit broadband is available to every home and business**, including in rural and remote communities.
- **Increase investment in green infrastructure**, including renewable energy and zero-carbon transport, industry and housing
- Requiring the National Infrastructure Commission to take fully into account the **environmental implications of all national infrastructure decisions**.

### 4. Water

- Hold big companies to account by giving them a duty to protect the environment, including **banning water companies from dumping raw sewage** into rivers, lakes and coastal areas.
- End the sewage scandal by **transforming water companies into public benefit** companies, **banning bonuses** for water bosses until discharges and leaks.
- **Replacing Ofwat with a tough new regulator** with new powers to prevent sewage dumps.