

Manifestos And the Next Government

Alex Goodman

Manifestos: the Legal Significance

The Salisbury Convention

- The Cabinet Manual defines the Salisbury Convention as follows:

“The House of Lords should not reject at second reading any government legislation that has been passed by the House of Commons and that carries out a manifesto commitment. In the House of Lords, a manifesto bill: • is accorded a second reading; • is not subject to ‘wrecking amendments’ which change the Government’s manifesto intention as proposed in the bill; and • is passed and sent (or returned) to the House of Commons, so that they have the opportunity, in reasonable time, to consider the bill or any amendments which the House of Lords may wish to propose.”
- Convention also applies to coalitions, though it is obviously more difficult to ascertain what constitute s a manifesto commitment in those circumstances.

The Conservative Manifesto

- “Get Brexit Done” (stated 64 times by my count)
- *Potential* for sweeping impact in the event of a hard Brexit in December 2020 because it would abolish the minimum requirements of EU law related, for example, to EIA; SEA; Habitats; landfill; nitrates; water etc.
- *But* Conservative manifesto states the government will raise standards in areas like workers’ rights, animal welfare, agriculture and the environment, which can already be achieved as EU standards set minima.

Conservative: Environment

- “Investing in the infrastructure, science and research that will deliver economic growth”
- “Reaching Net Zero by 2050 with investment in clean energy solutions and green infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions and pollution”
- Setting strict new laws on air quality
- We placed a moratorium on fracking in England with immediate effect. Having listened to local communities, we have ruled out changes to the planning system. We will not support fracking unless the science shows categorically that it can be done safely.
- Invest in Northern Powerhouse Rail: Leeds-Manchester and then elsewhere.
- Will consider Oakervee review of HS2
- Midlands Rail Hub; improve rail in southeast
- Upgrade regional bus, tram and train services
- Restore many of the Beeching lines

Environment: Lying in front of bulldozers?

- Er... no. Parliament's vote in favour of Heathrow expansion is to be respected
- We will keep our existing energy cap and introduce new measures to lower bills
- Oil and gas sector deal: The oil and gas industry employs almost 300,000 people, of whom four in 10 work in Scotland. We believe that the North Sea oil and gas industry has a long future ahead and know the sector has a key role to play as we move to a Net Zero economy. We will support this transition in the next Parliament with a transformational sector deal.”
- We will support gas for hydrogen production and nuclear energy, including fusion, as important parts of the energy system, alongside increasing our commitment to renewables.
- £28.8 billion investment in strategic and local roads
- We will upgrade the A55 as the main road transport artery for North Wales –
- A Welsh Conservative Government would deliver the M4 relief road which has been mothballed by the Labour administration.
- “Biggest ever pothole-filling programme”

Conservative: Environment III

- We will set up a new independent Office For Environmental Protection and introduce our own legal targets, including for air quality.
 - Previously foreshadowed in the Environment Bill 2019: will replace the role of the European Commission in enforcing compliance with environmental laws and will act as a general watchdog on environmental standards and particularly climate change.
- Additional 75,000 acres of trees a year by the end of the next Parliament, as well as restoring our peatland.
- We welcome the Glover Review and will create new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as making our most loved landscapes greener, happier, healthier and open to all [*greater focus on nature proposed*]
- We will make the coast to coast path.

Conservative: Housing

- Build at least a million more homes, of all tenures, over the next Parliament, and a target of 300,000 per year by the mid-2020s
 - Total new completions in 2018: 184,000
 - Total new completions in 2008: 200,000
 - Total new completions in 1968: 350,000
- “Beautiful, high-quality homes. We will ask every community to decide on its own design standards for new development, allowing residents a greater say on the style and design of development in their area, with local councils encouraged to build more beautiful architecture.”
- Support modern methods of construction.
- “Expect all new streets to be lined with trees.”

Conservative Planning Reforms

- “Make the planning system simpler for the public and small builders”
- We will amend planning rules so that the infrastructure – roads, schools, GP surgeries – comes before people move into new homes.
- Our new £10 billion Single Housing Infrastructure Fund will help deliver it faster.
- We will protect and enhance the Green Belt. We will improve poor quality land, increase biodiversity and make our beautiful countryside more accessible for local community use. In order to safeguard our green spaces, we will continue to prioritise brownfield development, particularly for the regeneration of our cities and towns.

Conservatives: Devolution of Planning Powers

- We remain committed to devolving power to people and places across the UK. Our ambition is for full devolution across England, building on the successful devolution of powers to city region mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and others, so that every part of our country has the power to shape its own destiny. We will publish an English Devolution White Paper setting out our plans next year.
- A Local Transformation Fund in each English region will be used exclusively to fund infrastructure projects decided at a local level, as will devolved governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- We will ... build up the regional offices of government in each of the nine English regions to co-ordinate government policies at the regional level, as well as ensuring a regional voice in Whitehall.
- The Towns Fund will go to an initial 100 towns to improve their local economy- and they and only they will make the choice about what improvement their local area needs.

Labour- Brexit

- Referendum on a further Withdrawal Agreement; rules out no deal Brexit.
- A permanent and comprehensive UK-wide customs union, which is vital to protect our manufacturing industry and allows the UK to benefit from joint UK-EU trade deals, and is backed by businesses and trade unions.
- Close alignment with the Single Market – ensuring we have a strong future economic relationship with the EU that can support UK businesses.
- Continued participation in EU agencies and funding programmes, including in such vital areas of co-operation as the environment, scientific research and culture.
- We will maintain and continuously improve the existing EU standards of environmental regulation.
- Again, therefore, commitment is that Brexit will make little substantive difference to the environment.

Labour: Energy

We will build:

- 7,000 new offshore wind turbines
- 2,000 new onshore wind turbines
- Enough solar panels to cover 22,000 football pitches.
- New nuclear power needed for energy security.
- We will trial and expand tidal energy
- We will upgrade almost all of the UK's 27 million homes to the highest energy-efficiency standards,
- We will introduce a zero-carbon homes standard for all new homes.
- We will expand distributed and community energy, and immediately and permanently ban fracking.

Labour: Environment

- We will introduce a Climate and Environment Emergency Bill setting out in law robust, binding new standards for decarbonisation, nature recovery, environmental quality and habitats and species protection.
- We will establish a new environmental tribunal to ensure that administrative decisions are consistent with environmental and nature-recovery obligations.
- Any expansion of airports must pass our tests on air quality, noise pollution, climate change obligations and countrywide benefits.
- End the cull of badgers

Labour: Communities and Local Government

- Labour will put the voices of local people at the heart of planning. We will rebalance power in the planning system by giving local government greater freedom to set planning fees and by requiring the climate and environmental emergency to be factored into all planning decisions.
- Labour will review and improve protected area designations, from National Parks to local nature reserves and urban green spaces. We will create new National Parks alongside a revised system of other protected area designations, which will guard existing wildlife sites and join up important habitats, while also ensuring more people can enjoy living closer to nature.

Labour: Housing

- Labour will deliver a new social housebuilding programme of more than a million homes over a decade, with council housing at its heart. By the end of the Parliament we will be building at an annual rate of at least 150,000 council and social homes, with 100,000 of these built by councils for social rent in the biggest council housebuilding programme in more than a generation. We will establish a new duty on councils to plan and build these homes in their area, and fund them to do so, with backing from national government.
- We will scrap the Conservatives' bogus definition of 'affordable', set as high as 80% of market rents, and replace it with a definition linked to local incomes. These council and housing association homes will be more affordable than market housing and built to higher standards.
- We will end the conversion of office blocks to homes that sidestep planning permission through 'permitted development'.

Labour: Transport

- Cutting Emissions will drive our transport policy.
- Delivering Crossrail for the North as part of improved connectivity across the northern regions. We will consult with local communities to reopen branch lines. We will also unlock capacity and extend high-speed rail networks nationwide by completing the full HS2 route to Scotland, taking full account of the environmental impacts of different route options.
- We will increase the funding available for cycling and walking. We will bring together transport and land-use planning to create towns and cities in which walking and cycling are the best choice: safe, accessible, healthy, efficient, economical and pollution-free. We will help children's health and well-being by ensuring street designs provide freedom for physically active outdoor play and by introducing measures to ensure the zones around our schools are safer, with cleaner air.

DUP

- Bridge from Northern Ireland to Scotland
- Expansion of Heathrow
- Cancel HS2
- Expand public transport
- 1000km long electronic interconnector from Iceland
- Carbon neutral by 2050

- 75% reduction in Scotland's emissions by 2030
- Green Energy New Deal: Against new nuclear and fracking, supports wind and solar
- bring to market a £3 billion portfolio of projects, including renewables, waste and construction, ready for green finance investment,
- Press for an increase in new woodland creation, working towards a target of 60 million trees planted annually in the UK by 2025, with 30 million of these in Scotland to help tackle the Climate Emergency and to support biodiversity and rural employment.
- Committed to making the Highlands and Islands the world's first net zero aviation region by 2040, with trials of low or zero emission flights, including electric planes, starting in 2021.

Liberal Democrats

- Continued commitment to HS2, Crossrail 2 and other major new strategic rail routes
- 300,000 homes a year by 2024, including 100,000 social homes.
- Create a statutory duty on all local authorities to produce a Zero Carbon Strategy, including plans for local energy, transport and land use, and devolve powers and funding to enable every council to implement it.
- Guarantee an Office of Environmental Protection that is fully independent of government, and possesses powers and resources to enforce compliance with climate and environmental targets.
- More renewable; solar panels; ban fracking.
- New Nature Act to support environmental improvements and bio-diversity.
- “A blue belt” of marine protected areas covering 50% of UK waters.

Green Party

- Total Replacement of fossil fuels with domestically produced renewables (most by 2030): planning rules changes to support a “massive increase”
- No new nuclear energy
- 100,000 new socially rented homes a year and all new private development to be built to Passivhaus standard
- Car free planning
- Solar panels for 1 million households a year
- Incentivise renovations and extensions through planning
- Devolution: including powers for LAs to prevent land banking; set planning fees and targets locally; committee systems for local government and proportional voting.
- Environmental Protection Commission
- New Green Belts and AONBs
- Scrap HS2

Thank you for listening

© Copyright Landmark Chambers 2019


London

180 Fleet Street
London, EC4A 2HG
+44 (0)20 7430 1221

Birmingham

4th Floor, 2 Cornwall Street
Birmingham, B3 2DL
+44 (0)121 752 0800

Contact us

 clerks@landmarkchambers.co.uk

 www.landmarkchambers.co.uk

Follow us

 [Landmark_LC](#)

 [Landmark Chambers](#)