

# Moving **Wales** Forward

WELSH LABOUR MANIFESTO 2021



Welsh Labour  Llafur Cymru

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Moving **Wales** Forward



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# INTRODUCTION



**This pandemic has tested all of us. Many of us have lost family members, friends, and neighbours to Covid-19, and we know that there are others still struggling with the lasting impact of the disease upon their health and wellbeing.**

We have, all of us, battled against the pandemic. We owe a big debt of gratitude to those heroes in health, care services, the police, education, other key workers and to countless volunteers. We have relied on them all to help us through the crisis. At the same time, we have all done our bit to keep things going, often under the most difficult of conditions. We must not put that hard work and sacrifice at risk.

Social solidarity is at the heart of the Labour movement. Never have we seen that more widely displayed than in Wales during these awful times. We have stood together, shoulder to shoulder, working, whenever we could, with the other devolved nations and the UK Government.

Here are some of the specific actions that we have taken to combat the pandemic.

The credit for every single one of them lies with those who have worked so hard to deliver them, with the support of your Welsh Labour Government, to:

- ✓ Inoculate **more than one and a half million people** with their **first dose of the Covid vaccine** in just over three months after the launch of the programme.
- ✓ Provide **free PPE for everyone working in the NHS and in social care**, including care homes.
- ✓ Set up the **most successful Covid contact tracing system in the UK** – a public service run by local people.
- ✓ Open the Grange University Hospital, on budget and ahead of time and secure **2,600 extra beds through our network of field hospitals** in all parts of Wales and **5,000 additional beds in total** during the winter.
- ✓ Protect more than **165,000 jobs by providing the most generous business support scheme** in the UK.
- ✓ Deliver our multi-million pound **Covid Commitment** so everyone over 16 who has lost their job can get back into work or training or get help to start a business.
- ✓ Support our social care providers through our **£150m Covid fighting fund** and invested more than £24m to protect charities and promote volunteering.
- ✓ Help **3,200 people into temporary accommodation** since March 2020 and help many more from becoming homeless.
- ✓ Deliver more than **200,000 food boxes to those shielding** earlier in the crisis.
- ✓ **Guarantee free school meals**, during the holidays too, for all eligible pupils up to and including Easter 2022.

The people of Wales look out for each other; we care for those in difficulties, and we understand how much more we can achieve when we work together. Welsh Labour shares the same values and your Welsh Labour Government has shown how to put those values into action. No other party in Wales comes close to demonstrating that it can be trusted to do the right thing for all the people of Wales.

As we work together to move forward beyond the pandemic, Welsh Labour is fired with the ambition to create the different, sustainable, exciting Wales of the future, built on the values that make us the nation we are.

Welsh Labour has the experience and the vision to lead Wales' recovery from the pandemic and we pledge to the people of Wales we will invest in our NHS to put it back on track, including a new medical school in North Wales; we will pay our care workers the Real Living Wage; we will fund up to 1,800 additional tutoring staff in schools to make sure our children are not left behind; we will offer our young people a guarantee of work, education, training, or self-employment; we will abolish the use of the most littered, single use plastics; we will put more police community support officers on our streets; we will build 20,000 new low carbon homes creating thousands of new jobs, as well as so much more.

When I look back over the difficult and testing months since March of last year, as well as the enduring sadness for lives and livelihoods lost and damaged, it is the thousands and thousands of small acts of kindness which I think will remain long in the memory. That is the experience, of looking out for and looking after each other, that we want to build on and take forward into the future.

In this manifesto, we set out exactly how we will create the kind of Wales that we all want. I urge you to read it and join us in **Moving Wales Forward**.

**Mark Drakeford**  
Welsh Labour Leader and First Minister

# **WELSH LABOUR'S PLEDGES**

## **1 RECOVER AFTER COVID:**

The biggest catch up programme in our NHS and schools and a new medical school for North Wales

- We will put our NHS Recovery Plan into action on day one to boost the services and treatment needed to keep Wales healthy. We will deliver a new medical school in North Wales to boost the training of health professionals in Wales.
- We will recover and raise standards for our young people with a major schools catch up plan, employing 1,800 additional tutoring staff so that none of our young people are left behind.

## **2 A YOUNG PERSONS GUARANTEE:**

Work, education or training offer for all under 25s

- A recovery that Moves Wales Forward means an economy that works for everyone. That is why Welsh Labour will stand by our young people and guarantee everyone under the age of 25 an offer of work, education, training, or self-employment. This offer includes the young people who will benefit from Welsh Labour's 125,000 new apprenticeships to give people of all ages high quality routes into better jobs.

## **3 A FAIR DEAL FOR CARE:**

The Real Living Wage for care workers

- In the face of a global pandemic, the dedication of the social care workforce has inspired a nation. Welsh Labour will deliver the Real Living Wage for all our social care staff. We will continue to cap non-residential care fees and maintain the £50,000 capital limit, helping people hold onto more of their savings before paying for care than any other UK nation.

## **4 A GREENER COUNTRY:**

Abolish more single use plastics and create a National Forest for Wales

- Wales' natural beauty is a gift to be shared and protected. Welsh Labour understands the risks to our common heritage posed by climate change and other environmental pressures.
- We will abolish the use of the most littered, single use plastics, saving our seas and countryside from the scourge of plastic pollution. Welsh Labour will extend the new National Forest for Wales to promote our landscape, boost sustainable tourism and support our green economy.

## **5 SAFER COMMUNITIES:**

More Police Community Support Officers on our streets

- The Welsh Labour Government has stepped in to fund 500 Police Community Support Officers to help keep our communities safe. We will increase this support to fund 600 officers whereas the Tories plan to cut every post.

## **6 NEW JOBS FOR WALES:**

Create thousands of jobs in a low carbon house building revolution

- The next Welsh Labour Government will build a greener Wales with jobs fit for the future and deliver 20,000 new low carbon social homes for rent.
- Welsh Labour will move the Welsh economy forward with greener homes, hospitals, schools, town centres and transport, driving new jobs in a radical transition to a zero carbon Wales.



CHAPTER 1

# ***HEALTH & WELLBEING***

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# HEALTH & WELLBEING

**The coronavirus pandemic has placed extraordinary pressures on our NHS but it has also shown our health service at its best. It has highlighted the immense dedication, care and skill of the workforce – the heartbeat of our health and care services – and new ways of working and technology have been introduced almost overnight.**

Welsh Labour has always been the party of the NHS; we have always invested in NHS services and healthcare professionals to provide high-quality care. We will continue to do so to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century NHS, which provides high-quality care as close to people's homes as possible.

We know people are worried about having their treatments delayed because of the pandemic. We will invest heavily in post-Covid recovery to respond to current need and tackle the backlog of postponed treatments and operations caused by the pandemic to make sure no one is left behind.

Prevention and wellbeing must be at the heart of the way forward for our NHS as we move beyond the Covid crisis. Poverty, overcrowding, obesity, underlying health conditions or disability are all critical factors that have been exposed by the pandemic. We will create a fairer NHS, focusing on health inequalities and preventable harms.

We will deepen the integration of health and care services and extend the use of new technologies to engage with patients and carers. We will deliver high-quality health services which are close to people's homes and support people to stay well and live well for longer. We believe healthcare should be as local as possible and always connected with other key partners - especially care providers, third sector, and local authority services, and delivered in the heart of our towns and communities.

We remain absolutely committed to a free NHS for Wales and it will be our top priority as we emerge from the pandemic. In taking the NHS forward for Wales we will build on the strong foundations and real achievements delivered by Labour over the last five years.



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# WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ For the last seven years we made annual increases in funding to support health education and training and we have now **recruited record numbers of frontline doctors, nurses, and midwives**. Overall, our NHS Wales workforce has grown by 11.8% over the last five years. This year, we have recruited 200 trainee GPs.
- ✓ Welsh Labour **ensured a £735 special bonus payment to our NHS staff** to thank them for their extraordinary dedication during the pandemic.
- ✓ Under Welsh Labour, ours was the first UK health service in Europe to **put nurse staffing levels into law** – making a real difference to patient outcomes and experience and quality of care.
- ✓ We are the first country in the UK to introduce a **single cancer pathway**, making sure everyone gets the best possible care and treatment. Cancer survival rates in Wales are increasing.
- ✓ Welsh Labour's flagship **£80m New Treatment Fund** has made 232 new medicines available on the NHS within an average of 13 days.
- ✓ We introduced Wales' **first ever gender identity service** in 2019 providing vital help and support to people closer to home.
- ✓ Wales is the first part of the UK to introduce special **non-invasive tests for babies** before they are born, helping to reduce the risk of miscarriage.
- ✓ **Child immunisation rates in Wales continue to be among the best in the world**. The vast majority of children in Wales are protected against a wide range of life-threatening diseases before they start school.
- ✓ Under Welsh Labour, ours was the first UK health service commit to ending new cases of HIV by 2030. **Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is now available to prevent HIV infection in Wales** and we have ended the so-called gay blood donation ban.
- ✓ Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic workers are disproportionately at risk from the virus and we quickly set up the **Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Covid 19 Advisory Group** resulting in a Workforce Risk Assessment Tool. This is the first of its kind in the UK and is in widespread use in the NHS and social care.
- ✓ Wales was the first country in the UK to **ban smoking in public places** and smoking has fallen to its lowest reported levels.
- ✓ Wales was the first part of the UK to change the law to **presumed consent for organ donation** in 2015.
- ✓ **Prescriptions remain free in Wales** – Welsh Labour scrapped charges in 2007.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Establish a **new medical school in North Wales** to raise the numbers in medical training. We will increase training funding by 8% in 2021 and over the next five years we will train 12,000 doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and psychologists. **We will continue to fund the NHS bursary** to support all those training to be a nurse or allied health professional.
- 2** **Keep prescriptions free** in Wales, unlike in England under the Tories, where each prescription item costs £9.15. We will also keep hospital car parking free in Wales.
- 3** **Continue to provide free PPE** for health and care staff for as long as is needed to deal with the pandemic. We will continue to fund our very successful, publicly run, **NHS Wales Test Trace Protect service**.
- 4** Fund NHS services to recover and **provide the delayed treatments** people are waiting for. We will strengthen national leadership through a new **National Executive** to make our clinical services fully prepared for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- 5** Prioritise investment in **mental health services** to help with long-term recovery from the pandemic. We will invest in our workforce, training people to provide early support with mental wellbeing and resilience. We will **prioritise service redesign to improve prevention, tackle stigma** and promote a **no-wrong-door** approach to mental health support for all.
- 6** Ensure that the NHS continues to **focus on end of life care** and we will commit to review patient pathway planning and hospice funding.
- 7** Invest in and roll-out new **technology that supports fast and effective advice and treatments**. We will introduce e-prescribing and support developments that enable accurate detection of disease through artificial intelligence.
- 8** **Deliver better access to GP, dental and optometry services**. We will continue to reform primary care, bringing together GP services with pharmacy, therapy, housing, social care, mental health, community and third sector partners to support people to stay well.
- 9** Invest in a **new generation of integrated health and social care centres** across Wales. We will introduce **an all-Wales framework to roll out social prescribing** to tackle isolation. In partnership with our universities, we will fund three new **Intensive Learning Academies** to improve patient experiences and outcomes.
- 10** Work with charities and clinicians to **develop an HIV action plan** for Wales and seek ways to encourage testing for HIV, reduce late diagnosis and advance the roll out of prevention drugs. We will work with partners to tackle the stigma experienced by those living with HIV.

**11**

Build on the success of our Whole School Approach to mental health for children and young people by rolling out child and adolescent mental health services 'in-reach' in schools across Wales. We will support mental wellbeing across our communities working with arts, sports, and voluntary organisations.

**12**

Introduce **an autism statutory code of practice on the delivery of autism services**. It will set out what health and other services need to consider when meeting the needs of autistic people and their carers.

# ***SOCIAL CARE***

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## SOCIAL CARE

**Our care system has been battered and bruised by the pandemic. Just like the NHS, it has highlighted the incredible courage and dedication of the huge and diverse workforce in both the public and private sector. The demands on our care services are unrelenting. There is much work to be done to protect, re-build and develop our care services so they continue to be effective beyond the pandemic.**

We have learned much from the last year, which we will use to transform our existing care services into a new flexible, responsive, and better integrated system to meet the challenges of an ageing society. Our care services will help people to enjoy meaningful and independent lives in their own homes for longer and where that is not possible, they will have a choice of dignified, compassionate, and positive care.

We will continue to meet the needs of children, young people, and families when adversity threatens the ability of parents to cope and children to thrive. We will continue to support the social model of disability and will tackle the barriers to independent living for disabled children and adults, ensuring choice and engagement in the life opportunities to which we all aspire. Our care services must be developed by and with those people who use them.

The care service we want for Wales is one where the workforce is the key to supporting our most vulnerable citizens – whether that's at home or in a care home. We believe social care is an occupation that deserves the same recognition and reward that other key public service professions enjoy.

Social care and health providers must work closely together and be equal partners in the design and delivery of services to meet the needs of their local area. Social care is not free at the point of need – unlike the NHS – but is means-tested (and the current Conservative UK Government shows no sign of changing that). The next Welsh Labour Government will help those who are least able to pay for the care they need.



***The care service we want for Wales is one where the workforce is the key to supporting our most vulnerable citizens – whether that's at home or in a care home***



# WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ Our combined spending on health and social care per person **has grown faster** in Wales since devolution than in England and Scotland, thanks to Welsh Labour.
- ✓ We have delivered our flagship policy of **free childcare for working parents of three and four-year olds** - the most generous offer for working parents in the UK. Our investment in the development of 115 new or redeveloped childcare facilities has helped grow the childcare sector, creating quality jobs.
- ✓ We have promoted **children's rights** in all our policies and we changed the law to help make sure that **physical punishment for children becomes a thing of the past**. We have continued to invest in **Flying Start** for younger children while services in England have been cut.
- ✓ We have **raised the capital limit** for people entering residential care – they can **retain up to £50,000** of their wealth before having to pay towards their care. This is the most generous scheme in the UK.
- ✓ Welsh Labour has maintained a **cap on charges** for care services people get in their own homes at **a maximum of £100**. People on low incomes pay much less or nothing at all for their home support services.
- ✓ Our promise to build **integrated health and social care centres** in local communities across Wales has been delivered in Tonypanddy, Aberaeron, Fishguard, Murton, Penclawdd, Ruthin, Mountain Ash and Pontypridd. Another 11 centres are at various stages of advanced planning.
- ✓ We provided a **£150m Covid fighting fund** to support social care providers across Wales and ensured free Personal Protective Equipment for care workers. We provided a **£24m Third Sector Covid-19 Response Fund** which helped protect charities and voluntary organisations financially through the crisis and helped promote more volunteering.
- ✓ Welsh Labour ensured a **£500 special payment to almost 70,000** social care workers across Wales in 2020 and **another £735 in 2021** to thank them for their dedication during the pandemic.
- ✓ We have provided more than **1,000 tablets to 584 care homes** as part of our Digital Communities Wales programme.
- ✓ We value Wales' army of unpaid carers - we've run a **Carers' Rights awareness** campaign and launched a new **National Carers Plan** to get better services for carers. We fund three major charities for carers with more than £3m in grants and another £1m to support hardship claims.
- ✓ We funded a national befriending scheme **Friend in Need** for older people who are isolated or lonely. We launched our vision of a rights and age-friendly Wales in our **Strategy for an Ageing Society**, which promotes inter-generational respect and solidarity and help us all to age well.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Create a stronger and better-paid workforce - this is the key to delivering better services. We will ensure that **care workers are paid the Real Living Wage** during the next Senedd term.
- 2** Work with our partners to upskill the workforce and build apprenticeships in care and recruit more Welsh speakers. We will create a **Chief Social Care Officer for Wales** to bring national leadership and greater esteem to the care profession.
- 3** Continue to **cap the costs of non-residential social care** at the current **£100 maximum** per week. Welsh Labour will guarantee this will not rise over the lifetime of the next Senedd term. Most citizens will pay much less than this or nothing at all if they are on low incomes.
- 4** Maintain the **capital limit at £50,000**. This is the most generous amount in the UK and means people in Wales can keep more of their own savings and capital before they pay for care.
- 5** Launch a **National Social Care Framework** to set fair commissioning, fair workforce conditions, and a more balanced care market between public, voluntary, and private providers. We will legislate to strengthen partnerships to deliver better integrated care and health, paying attention to the responses to our White Paper on *Rebalancing Care and Support*. The Framework will deepen collaboration with the voluntary sector and identify priorities for post-Covid Wales.
- 6** Pursue a sustainable UK solution so that **care is free for all at the point of need**. If the Conservative UK Government breaks its promise again and fails to bring forward a **fully funded** scheme within the current UK parliament, we will consult on a potential Wales-only solution to meet our long-term care needs.
- 7** Strengthen support for carers through a £1m Covid hardship fund in 2021 and fund a new £3m short-break **respite scheme** to help carers in their vital activities.
- 8** **Invest £40m** into the **integrated care** of older people with complex needs, especially dementia care, developing more than 50 **local community hubs** to co-locate frontline health and social care and other services. **We will support innovative housing development to meet care needs**, such as Extra Care housing. We will fund in every local authority a dedicated post to champion work to make Wales an age friendly nation.
- 9** Work with the Disability Equality Forum to **improve the interface between continuing health care and Direct Payments**.
- 10** Roll out **baby bundles** for new parents to more families. We will also **fund childcare** for more families where parents are in education and training. We will continue to support our flagship Flying Start programmes for children in some of our most deprived communities.



**11** Help prevent families breaking up by funding **advocacy services** for parents whose children are at risk of coming into care. And we will invest £20m to provide **additional specialist support for children with complex needs** who may be on the edge of care. We will explore opportunities for radical reform of current services for children looked after and care leavers. We will continue to support and uphold the rights of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people.

**12** **Eliminate private profit** from the care of looked after children during the next Senedd term. We will help **fund regional residential services** to bring children with complex needs back home from care outside of Wales. We will continue to support our national **Fostering Wales** scheme. We will strengthen public bodies in their role as 'corporate parent' to ensure children looked after away from home get the best care possible.

# ***JOBS & SKILLS***

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## **JOBS & SKILLS**

**The last five years have been some of the most disruptive our economy has ever faced – austerity, Brexit and coronavirus have each had a massive impact. Brexit will profoundly reshape jobs and entire industries, while the pandemic has changed the very nature of work itself. Addressing the disruption of today while preparing for the economy of tomorrow, in a sustainable and socially just way, is one of the most important tasks of our generation.**

We will build a post-pandemic, post-Brexit economy that tackles the underlying structural challenges in our economy – the climate crisis; the impact of four decades of deindustrialisation; the legacy of poverty and the need for new hope, new skills, and new opportunities. All this, against the backdrop of a lost decade of UK Tory austerity that has reduced the funding available to invest in skills, training, and infrastructure to support a vibrant sustainable economy.

The future we want will not be found in the low tax, minimal regulation, shallow-protection economy the Tories believe in. It is the values of our Labour movement and the proven record of our Welsh Labour Government on which we will build the future – we will put collaboration ahead of competition; we will work in social partnership with our trade union and business colleagues to secure durable, meaningful, and fairly rewarded work.

The next Welsh Labour Government will create secure and lasting jobs as we decarbonise our economy. We will support Welsh businesses to find new export markets and create new jobs. We will invest in the sustainable green industries of tomorrow – innovative housing, renewable energy, and new digital technologies – and we will deliver our economic future with fairness and equality at the heart of everything we do.



**The next  
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# WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ During the pandemic, we provided the most **generous economic help** for firms and employees, anywhere in the UK, worth over £2bn. Our Wales only **Economic Resilience Fund** has protected more than **149,000 jobs and the £100m of loan funding** channelled through the Development Bank of Wales has safeguarded over **16,000** more. Our **Business Wales** service supported **750 entrepreneurs** to start a business during the pandemic.
- ✓ We developed a **bold Covid Reconstruction Plan**, backed by a **£320m fund and introduced a new Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission**, setting out actions to build a fairer and greener economy.
- ✓ We are investing **£40m in a new Covid Commitment** - everyone over 16 who has lost their job will get the advice and support they need to get into work, training, or start their own business.
- ✓ We set up three **new Regional Employment Response Groups** to help coordinate the advice and employment support for those who lost their job during the pandemic.
- ✓ We have created **100,000 high-quality all-age apprenticeships** and piloted new **Personal Learning Accounts** to help people gain new skills.
- ✓ Over the last decade, we have helped **more than 19,000 young people** access good quality work through Jobs Growth Wales.
- ✓ We established the **Fair Work Commission** to ensure fair treatment at work and introduced the **Ethical Code on Procurement in Supply Chains** to protect workers' rights and tackle blacklisting.
- ✓ We repealed the Tories' **regressive anti-trade union legislation** and we enacted the Equality Act **socio-economic duty**.
- ✓ We developed a new **Economic Contract**. For the first time fair work, higher skills and reducing our carbon footprint is at the heart of economic policy.
- ✓ We launched an innovative new approach to the everyday economy, testing new ideas through a **£4.5m Foundational Economy Fund** to grow locally grounded firms.
- ✓ We set up the UK's first ever **Development Bank for Wales with more than £1bn of funding** to support the wider economy as well as small and medium sized enterprises.
- ✓ We cut the tax paid by every small business in Wales with permanent rates relief.
- ✓ We backed our key industries, such as steel and aerospace, as they faced the challenges of Covid and Brexit, supporting a **new £20m Advanced Manufacturing and Research Centre** in North Wales.
- ✓ We have developed a new **£110m Transforming Towns** approach to breathe new life into our town centres. We've committed **£700m funding to city and growth deals** in the Cardiff Capital Region, Swansea Bay, North Wales and Mid Wales.
- ✓ We funded the appointment of **disabled people's employment champions across Wales** to help employers recruit more disabled people.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Support young people who have been affected by both Brexit and the pandemic by developing a new **Young Persons Guarantee**, giving everyone under 25 the offer of work, education, training, or self-employment.
- 2** **Create 125,000 all-age apprenticeships** during the next Senedd term. We will work with unions and employers to **expand the use of shared and degree apprenticeships** to give people more flexible routes into training and a career.
- 3** Take forward our **Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission for Wales** and promote good quality skills in the areas where we know the economy will grow. We will strengthen Regional Skills Partnerships to ensure supply meets the changing economic needs of Wales.
- 4** Build a genuine system of lifelong learning for everyone who needs help finding work and re-training, especially those most disadvantaged. We will **expand Personal Learning Accounts** to allow people to study flexibly and obtain new skills.
- 5** Put into law our successful **social partnership approach** with employers and unions to improve workers' rights, drive up the quality of jobs and public services, and strengthen the economy.
- 6** Tackle inequalities in work experienced by **Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities** and take forward recommendations in the Race Equality Action Plan. We will progress the Fair Work Commission's recommendations and make Wales a genuinely **Fair Work Nation**. We will use the new network of **Disabled People's Employment Champions** to help close the gap between disabled people and the rest of the working population.
- 7** **Strengthen our Economic Contract** so inclusive growth, fair work, decarbonisation and improved mental health at work are at the heart of everything we do. We will support the **Wales TUC proposals** for union members to become Green Representatives in the workplace. To help upskill our workforce, we will build on the success of the **Wales Union Learning Fund**, scrapped in England by the Tories. Using the power of the public purse, we will use all levers at our disposal to advance the fair work agenda in Wales.
- 8** Use our £500m Wales Flexible Investment Fund to support economic recovery and expand the Development Bank of Wales' patient capital funds to **provide long-term lending to small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurs and start-ups**. We will increase the use of **equity stakes** in business support. We will secure the creation of a **Community Bank for Wales**, supporting its growth so it has 30 branches across Wales over the next decade.
- 9** Build on our **Better Jobs Closer to Home** programme and our foundational economy work to grow local economies. We will develop a **Backing Local Firms Fund** to support local businesses. We will provide greater support for worker buyouts and, with the cooperative sector, seek to double the number of employee-owned businesses.

**10** With local partners, we will develop **masterplans for towns and high streets** to coordinate and focus economic opportunities and services, so more people work and spend time in these vibrant centres. We will **empower communities** to have a greater stake in local regeneration.

**11** Enable our **town centres to become more agile economically**, we will help businesses to work co-operatively, increase their digital offer and support local supply chains, including local delivery services. We will support the development of a **register of empty buildings** and help small businesses move into vacant shops.

**12** Change the way we work, rather than commuting to the office every day we will **seek a 30% target for working remotely** to achieve a better work-life balance. We will develop **new remote working hubs** in communities, increasing footfall and creating new opportunities in town centres.

***BUILDING A  
STRONGER,  
GREENER  
ECONOMY***

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# **BUILDING A STRONGER, GREENER ECONOMY**

**Over the last four decades, Wales has been at the sharpest edge of deindustrialisation and with it a legacy of low pay, skills deficits, health inequalities and poverty. Devolution has given us the opportunity to re-build our economy and develop a modern and productive infrastructure, which can act as an engine of inclusive and sustainable growth.**

The pandemic has ravaged our economy – too many good businesses and jobs have been lost over the last year. We must now reset the clock and create a new, fairer, and greener economy that works for everyone, not just the few.

With new digital, economic and transport infrastructures we will re-build and re-energise our local communities, our town centres, and our economy in a vibrant and inclusive way to safeguard existing jobs and create new job opportunities so Wales can thrive once again.

Our new greener economy will be grounded in our values of progressive change – values of co-operation not competition; looking out for one another, not divided against each other.

We will go forward together with our partners in the public sector, in business and in trade unions. And we will build our economic infrastructure for long-term sustainable home-grown industries and the rewarding jobs they will bring.



***Our new greener economy will be grounded in our values of progressive change***



## WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ Our Labour Government in Wales planned for the future by creating the **National Infrastructure Commission for Wales**, publishing a National Development Framework and bringing local authorities together in new regional planning structures.
- ✓ The Welsh Labour Government has stepped in where the UK Tory Government has failed by investing **£200m to help 750,000 premises get fast-fibre broadband**. We established a **Centre for Digital Public Services** to advance innovation.
- ✓ Sustainable, integrated, and accessible transport is vital to a modern economy and we have made **record investment in public transport right across Wales** and a bold new transport strategy to cut emissions too.
- ✓ Brought the Wales and Borders rail network back into public ownership. We are investing £750m to **upgrade and electrify the South Wales Valleys** lines to deliver better infrastructure, journey times and more trains.
- ✓ Introduced the MyTravelPass to give **discounted travel to all 16 to 21-year-olds**.
- ✓ We are putting more than £80m of additional funding into protecting bus services during the pandemic and committed **major investments in new bus stations** across Wales, including Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil and Shotton.
- ✓ We are making a record investment of **£75m in active travel** to improve walking and cycling opportunities.
- ✓ **Helping people move to electric vehicles** with new investment in charging infrastructure and a new electric vehicle charging strategy.
- ✓ We've invested more than **£110m in renewable energy infrastructure**, backing 11 marine energy projects, including the tidal stream demonstration zone off the coast of Anglesey.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Invest for the long term in the green and modern infrastructure Wales needs to thrive. We will launch a new 10-year Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for a zero-carbon economy; deliver on our 10-year **£100m Tech-Valleys programme** and complete major projects including the **£1bn dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road**, an exceptional programme of work to unlock the potential of employment in the region. We will continue to press the UK Government for a fair share of vital rail infrastructure and R&D investment for Wales.
- 2** Take forward our new Digital Strategy for Wales and upgrade our digital and communications infrastructure. We will support innovation through our new **Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre** in North Wales and our new **Manufacturing Strategy** to help key areas of our economy, such as aerospace and steel, to innovate, grow and reduce their carbon footprint.
- 3** Create a **modern legislative basis for transport in Wales**. We will lift the ban on local authorities setting up **new municipal bus companies**. We will legislate to **modernise the taxi and private vehicle sector** and address the problems of cross-bordering.
- 4** Implement our new Wales Transport Strategy to develop a high quality, sustainable and affordable public transport system. We will give **Transport for Wales** new powers to better integrate rail, bus and active travel and **regulate for them to meet Welsh language standards**. We will also work with local authorities to develop new **Regional Transport Plans**. We will work towards our new target of 45% of journeys by sustainable modes by 2040, setting more stretching goals where we can
- 5** Take forward the **Burns Commission** report for Newport, pressing the UK Government to help us realise its exciting vision for transport integration and for easing **M4 congestion**. We will develop a new **major routes fund** to improve the attractiveness and biodiversity of areas alongside major transport routes into Wales.
- 6** Deliver **£800m of new rolling stock for our railways** and ensure that **95% of train journeys are on new trains by 2024**. We will progress plans for a **metro in North Wales and Swansea Bay**. We will explore opportunities for multi-modal extensions to our Metro networks, such as the North West Corridor and across the South Wales valleys. We will press the UK Government to electrify the North Wales mainline. We will develop the exciting **Global Centre of Rail Excellence** in the Dulais Valley to promote rail innovation. We will explore options for workers to take an ownership stake in our national transport assets.
- 7** Invest in bus services and complete **major new bus infrastructure projects**, including reallocating road space to support dedicated bus lanes and new rapid transit routes that make bus travel easier. We will learn from recent Fflecsi pilots to **expand flexible demand-responsive travel** across Wales. We will build on the success of our **free concessionary travel scheme for older people** and look at how **fair fares** can encourage integrated travel, including exploring extensions of the **MyTravelPass** for reduced-cost travel for young people. We will work to make the **bus and taxi vehicle fleet zero-emission by 2028**.

- 8** Work with Transport for Wales and local authorities to strengthen the **promotion of walking and cycling** as we make Wales **an active travel nation**. We will support innovative new social enterprise schemes such as **bike maintenance repair cafes and bike recycling schemes**. We will develop new Active Travel Integrated Network Maps and work with schools to promote Active Travel and Road Safety.
- 9** Make **20mph the default speed limit** in residential areas and ban pavement parking wherever possible.
- 10** Build a sustainable future for our **key ports and Cardiff Airport**.
- 11** Establish a new **transport performance board** to develop the integrated and efficient passenger transport system we want in Wales. We will modernise transport grants. We will **invest in travel options that encourage public transport and support walking and cycling** – options that are low or zero-carbon and mitigate air pollution.
- 12** **Support innovation in new renewable energy technology**, with a particular focus on supporting to market new technologies that need additional help. As part of a balanced energy policy, we will develop a Tidal Lagoon Challenge and support ideas that can **make Wales a world centre of emerging tidal technologies**.

# ***A GREENER ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT***

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## A GREENER ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

### A greener future is the only viable future we have.

Developing a more sustainable relationship with the natural world must begin in our local communities – access to local green spaces for the wellbeing benefits it can bring, a local economy that avoids waste, locally generated renewable energy, locally grown food, and keeping all communities safe from the impact of pollution and the changing climate.

The kind of green transformation that the next Welsh Labour Government will deliver will integrate positive action for nature into more of our economic activity – from sheep farming to steel production – we will prioritise investment in the skills we need to prepare our citizens to meet the challenges that climate change will bring.

A greener future must be a fairer future too and we cannot rely on the free market to deliver it. As the recent health emergency demonstrated, collective action, supported by local and national government is so much more effective at delivering meaningful change.

We will make sure that nature and climate are on the agenda of every public service and private sector business, and we will be looking to see an environmental return on any public investment.

The climate and nature emergency is not the *next* global crisis. It is already upon us and Welsh Labour has the vision and ambition to plan a better, fairer, and greener future for us all.



*The kind of green transformation that **the next Welsh Labour Government** will deliver will integrate positive action for nature into more of our economic activity*





## WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ Our Warm Homes scheme has **installed energy efficiency measures in more than 60,000 households**, reducing fuel bills and improving health.
- ✓ Through our funding to National Resources Wales, we are protecting over **70,000 homes from flooding**. We have also funded local authorities to build **a network of flood defences to protect tens of thousands more**, a higher level of investment in flood protection than anywhere in the UK where the Tories are in charge.
- ✓ Through setting recycling targets, spending £1 billion since 2000 to improve waste collection, and banning single use plastics, the Welsh Labour Government has put **Wales in the lead globally** as far as recycling is concerned.
- ✓ Since we launched the creation of a **National Forest for Wales**, we have supported more than 30 Welsh forestry businesses to build the foundations for a significant expansion of tree planting and a sustainable timber industry.
- ✓ **Fracking has been banned in Wales** by this Welsh Labour government and the opportunities for the extraction of fossil fuels in Wales continue to reduce.
- ✓ Through maintaining the highest bathing water standards in the UK, **Wales' beaches** have secured over **40 Blue Flag Awards**
- ✓ The Welsh Labour government has kept the country **free from the cultivation of genetically modified crops**.
- ✓ We have introduced strict regulations to **reduce agricultural pollution** that will help farmers play their part in improving the health of our rivers.
- ✓ We introduced a regulation to **ban third party sales of puppies and kittens**, commonly known as 'Lucy's Law,' and we have banned the use of wild animals in circuses.
- ✓ Through our 'Wales and Africa' programme, we have planted more than **15 million trees** in Uganda securing livelihoods, protecting communities, and helping the environment.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Legislate to **abolish the use of more commonly littered, single use plastics**, saving our seas and countryside from the scourge of plastic pollution. We will also introduce an extended producer responsibility scheme to incentivise waste reduction by businesses.
- 2** Create a **National Forest** to extend from the North of Wales to the South, improving 20 existing woodlands to achieve National Forest designation. We will support communities to **create 30 new woodlands and connect habitat areas**. We will strengthen the protections for ancient woodlands. We will harness the economic, cultural, and recreational potential of the National Forest in consultation with local communities, building on our progress towards **creating a sustainable timber industry**.
- 3** **Create a new system of farm support** that will maximise the protective power of nature through farming, requiring food production in Wales takes place within environmental limits. Farmers will only receive public subsidy for producing food that delivers additional environmental outcomes. We will develop a **Wales Community Food Strategy to encourage the supply of locally sourced food** in Wales.
- 4** **Ensure coal tip safety by introducing legislation** to deal with the legacy of centuries of mining, strengthening local authority powers to ensure protection of the public and the environment.
- 5** Fund additional **flood protection for more than 45,000 homes**. We will deliver nature-based flood management in all major river catchments to expand wetland and woodland habitats at the same time as relieving pressure on hard defences. We will legislate to strengthen the requirements for the use of sustainable drainage systems that provide wildlife habitat.
- 6** Set the highest international standards of air quality into law in a **Clean Air Act for Wales**, consistent with World Health Organisation guidance. We will extend the provision of air quality monitoring to encourage positive behaviour change to reduce exposure and eliminate pollution at source.
- 7** Designate a new **National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley**. We will begin to designate Wales' inland waters for recreation, strengthening water quality monitoring to enable rivers to reach the same high standards achieved by Wales' beaches. We will establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline.
- 8** Support **80 re-use and repair hubs in town centres** and bring together a place-based zero waste challenge network of organisations to support cultural change in businesses and communities.
- 9** Uphold our policy of **opposing the extraction of fossil fuels** in Wales, both on land and in Welsh waters, using the powers available to us. We will **expand renewable energy generation** by public bodies and community groups in Wales by over 100MW by 2026, working towards our target of 1GW in public sector and community renewable energy capacity by 2030.

**10** Enforce a **moratorium on the consenting of all large incineration facilities.**

**11** Develop a national model for **regulation of animal welfare**, introducing registration for animal welfare establishments, commercial breeders for pets or for shooting, and animal exhibits. We will improve the qualifications for animal welfare inspectors to raise their professional status. We will require **CCTV in all slaughterhouses**, we will ban the use of snares, and restrict the use of cages for farmed animals. We will not allow the culling of badgers to control the spread of TB in cattle.

**12** Expand the successful scheme supporting community groups across Wales to **create or significantly enhance green spaces** accessible to and valued by local communities, including:

- 2000 pollinator habitat sites.
- 1000 community food growing sites.
- 200 community orchards cultivating native fruit.
- 100 'Tiny Forests' – dense and diverse woodlands the size of a tennis court.
- 50 habitat creation schemes at rail stations and transport interchanges.
- 50 sensory gardens for therapeutic purposes, delivered in partnership with health charities and the Welsh NHS.

# ***SCHOOLING, LEARNING, & EDUCATION FOR ALL***

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## SCHOOLING, LEARNING, & EDUCATION FOR ALL

Over the last decade the Welsh Labour Government has led the most ambitious and far-reaching programme of reform in our schools, colleges, and universities for a generation. The success of our reforms has meant that the proportion of working age people with no qualifications in Wales has more than halved since devolution began and those with higher education level skills has gone from just over one in five to more than one in three.

The challenge of the coming term is to continue the long-term programme of reform that we have started – to embed Wales' world leading, exciting and creative new curriculum in our schools; to complete the vital tertiary education funding changes we have started and to continue to develop stronger leadership at every level of our education system.

We will repair the damage done over the last year to the lives and life chances of our children and young people who have had their schooling and education disrupted by Covid. A Welsh Labour Government will ensure that educational inequalities narrow in Wales, not widen, and we will make sure that nobody is left behind as a result of Covid.

The Welsh Labour way has always been to seek positive change and improvement through collaboration and consensus. We will work with the most important assets we have – our children and young people, their parents and carers, and our workforce – to ensure the best outcomes for learners, particularly the most vulnerable.



**A Welsh Labour Government**  
*will ensure that educational inequalities narrow in Wales, not widen, and we will make sure that nobody is left behind as a result of Covid*





# WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ We have seen **significantly improved A level performance** - in Wales in 2019, 27 per cent achieved A\*-A grades, the highest in the UK, up from 23 per cent in 2016.
- ✓ We have developed the new, world-beating **Curriculum for Wales**, following the Donaldson Review, and passed new legislation to make sure it is delivered in all our schools. We are also taking forward the Williams Report's recommendations on the teaching of themes related to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and experiences.
- ✓ Through the Reducing Infant Class Sizes Grant, the Welsh Labour Government has **reduced the average infant class size** to 23, employing an extra 165 staff and directly benefiting more than 6,000 children.
- ✓ We have successfully passed legislation this term that will transform the system in Wales for supporting children and young people aged 0-25 years who have **additional learning needs**.
- ✓ The Welsh Labour Government has **reduced the cost of the school day** by extending financial support to more families. We were the first government in the UK to do the decent thing and **guarantee free school meal provision for all school holidays** up to and including Easter 2022.
- ✓ We have provided funding to extend the **School Holiday Enrichment Programme** for children in areas of high deprivation so that over 14,000 children will now benefit.
- ✓ We **protected the Educational Maintenance Allowances** at £30 per week, scrapped where the Tories are in power.
- ✓ We have pursued our clear ambition of achieving a **million Welsh speakers by 2050** by supporting the growing demand for Welsh medium provision and by embedding the acquisition of Welsh language skills across the new curriculum.
- ✓ We have **invested in the quality of teaching and the professional development of all teaching and support staff**. We developed the National Approach to Professional Learning and invested £31m into school budgets to allow them to create the time and space needed for professional learning.
- ✓ We have also developed a new **Teaching Assistants learning pathway** aligned to new Assisting Teaching standards and a new Aspiring Higher Level Teaching Assistant programme.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Make sure that **no-one is left behind** by funding up to 1,800 **additional tutoring staff** in our schools for as long as they are needed. As part of our new Young Persons Guarantee, we will review and strengthen the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to support young people at risk of disengaging from education and training.
- 2** Invest more than £1.5bn in the next phase of the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Programme** – the most ambitious scheme of new building in a generation. We will continue to work with local authorities to transform learning environments, develop net-zero carbon schools and open up school facilities for local communities.
- 3** Continue to invest in learning, teaching and research in our colleges and universities to help them maximise their contribution to the local economy and national life and develop **further as centres of international excellence**. We will take The Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill through the Senedd and we will review Adult Education to increase the numbers of adults learning in Wales.
- 4** Work with schools to help them meet **the mental health challenges** many young learners face, including additional counselling provision throughout the next Senedd term.
- 5** **Improve outcomes for our young people** by supporting schools and teachers to deliver our world-leading Curriculum for Wales, which starts in 2022. We will **reduce unnecessary bureaucracy** to support school leaders to focus on what they do best – lead. We will implement the new **Additional Learning Needs Act**, to transform the experiences and outcomes for children and young people. We will work with partners to expand the teaching of modern foreign languages in our schools.
- 6** Continue investing in the **Pupil Development Grant**, focusing on support for the pupils whose families are facing the greatest financial challenges. We will also **protect the Education Maintenance Allowances** for young learners.
- 7** Maintain our commitment to provide **free breakfasts for all primary school pupils**, recognising how important it is for children to start the day right. We will also maintain our commitment to abolishing holiday hunger by building on our **School Holiday Enrichment Programme**. We will continue to meet the rise in demand for Free School Meals resulting from the pandemic and review the eligibility criteria, extending entitlement as far as resources allow.
- 8** Appoint a Cabinet level minister to develop and take forward the proposals of the Youth Board for Wales. This will include working with local government and partners to legislate for **a new framework for youth services** in Wales.
- 9** Make a reality of **community-focused schools** by investing in the learning environment, co-locating key services, and securing stronger engagement with parents and carers outside traditional hours.
- 10** Explore **reform of the school day and the school year** to bring both more in line with contemporary patterns of family life and employment.



**11** Support the **democratic role of local authorities** in education and promote parity of esteem between vocational and academic routes in Welsh education. We will work with trade unions and local government to examine how a greater degree of federation can support education leadership across Wales and how we can strengthen **professional learning communities**.

**12** Develop a sustainable model for **supply teaching** that has fair work at its heart.

# ***LEADING ON EQUALITIES***

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## LEADING ON EQUALITIES

**The best future there can be for Wales is the most equal, free and fair future.**

Throughout our history, the Labour Party has stood for the rights and recognition of those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged or who face stigma and discrimination. We are the party of equalities and human rights and we remain committed to freedom of conscience and freedom of belief.

Many of the challenges, including racism, faced by our minority communities have their origins in structures of power and social relations that have long had their day yet still need to be challenged. Gender inequality is still an entrenched unfairness and violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence remains all too common. We want to make Wales the safest place in Europe to be a woman. We also know that people are disabled by barriers created by societal inequality and not by their impairment or specific needs. We have come a long way on the march for LGBTQ+ equality, but until every person can be their true self, living free from fear, we still have work to do.

Welsh Labour recognises our common humanity and celebrates diversity, and difference. The more we work together, the more likely we are to achieve positive change. That is why we actively support progressive networks, campaigns and organisations that are working towards an equal society.



**Welsh Labour**  
*recognises our  
common humanity  
and celebrates  
diversity, and  
difference*



## WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ To tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence, the Welsh Labour Government established the **Live Fear Free** and the **Dyn** helplines for women and men who are victims of violence and domestic abuse.
- ✓ We have launched a **Race Equality Action Plan**, co-constructed with Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic community mentors and community groups. We have also invested over £1.2m to tackle **hate crime** and to support victims of hate crime.
- ✓ The Welsh Labour Government and Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic clinicians, created and introduced the **All Wales Covid-19 Workforce Risk Assessment Tool**, the first in the UK. This helped to protect the health of NHS, social care, education, and key worker staff in Wales throughout the pandemic.
- ✓ We established the **Access to Elected Office Fund** to support and encourage **disabled people** to run for elected office in the Senedd and Local Government.
- ✓ We introduced **Disabled People's Employment Champions** and committed nearly £40m to employment support for those most negatively impacted by Covid.
- ✓ Welsh Labour embedded Relationships and Sexuality Education in the new curriculum ensuring **LGBTQ+ inclusive education** for our children and young people. We also established a ground-breaking **Gender Identity Service** to support Trans people and commissioned a comprehensive LGBTQ+ action plan in partnership with Stonewall Cymru.
- ✓ **We removed the 'gay blood ban'** and became the first UK nation to make PReP available on the NHS. We supported Prides throughout Wales as well as sponsoring Pride Cymru.
- ✓ We committed **Wales to be a Nation of Sanctuary** and provided over £1m to the **Asylum Rights** Programme offering advocacy and support.
- ✓ The Welsh Government commissioned research to advance the case for the incorporation of UN Conventions into Welsh law and the introduction of a **Human Rights Act for Wales**.
- ✓ It was this Welsh Labour Government that provided **free period products** across schools, colleges, local authorities, and communities.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Implement and fund the commitments made in our **Race Equality Action Plan** to tackle the significant inequalities and racism faced by Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities.
- 2** Strengthen the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy to include a **focus on violence against women in the street and workplace** as well as the home. Expand the 'Ask and Act' and 'Don't be a Bystander' training and awareness campaigns.
- 3** Work with partners to establish an **equalities legal service** to provide support on unfair or discriminatory employment practices. We will explore legislation to address pay gaps based on **gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability and other forms of discrimination** and ensure public bodies and those receiving public funding address pay disparities. We will implement targets around Gender Budgeting so that all decisions by a Welsh Government are seen through a gender lens.
- 4** Incorporate the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of all forms of **Discrimination against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People** into Welsh law.
- 5** Ensure **the history and culture of our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities** are properly represented by investing further in our cultural sector and museum network. We will address fully the recommendations from the Monuments and Street Names Audit and from the **Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Communities, Contributions and Cynefin in the New Curriculum Working Group**.
- 6** Create a Race Disparity Unit alongside an Equality Data Unit to **ensure an inclusive evidence base to inform decision making in government**. We will expand our Access to Elected Office programme to encourage more Women, Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic and disabled people to stand for elected office. We will implement the recommendations of *Reflecting Wales in Running Wales: Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for Public Appointments in Wales (2020-2023)*.
- 7** Support Pride Cymru by becoming a formal sponsor and we will create a **Wales-wide Pride Fund** to support events and campaigns across the country. We will also appoint a Wales-wide Pride Coordinator to support campaigns and activities.
- 8** Use all available powers to protect our young people through **banning all aspects of LGBTQ+ conversion therapy that are in our powers and seek the devolution of any necessary additional powers. We will also work to devolve the Gender Recognition Act** and support our Trans community.
- 9** Work with organisations such as Google, Facebook, and Twitter to **tackle hate crime and misinformation**, particularly to protect our children and young people from hate crime and bullying.
- 10** Embed **period dignity** in schools and expand our free period provision in communities and the private sector.
- 11** Make our Welsh public **transport system more accessible to disabled people**, in line with our commitment to the social model of disability.

- 12** Continue our strong partnership with voluntary organisations across the range of our responsibilities, for example, through our Credit Union network to **help the most financially vulnerable** in our communities.



# ***WELSH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, SPORT & TOURISM***

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## WELSH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, SPORT & TOURISM

**Our national anthem speaks of Wales as the land of song and poetry, and we are known the world over for our creativity, music, and sport. Our Welsh language is a national treasure, reflecting our long history. In 2019, Wales was named amongst the top 10 most beautiful countries in the world by the *Rough Guide*.**

Given these riches of culture, Welsh Labour has always understood the importance of the arts, tourism, and sport to the Welsh economy and to our national life. We are committed to celebrating Wales' history and language as well as being an open, inclusive society that builds on a variety of cultural traditions. We want to make our heritage available to everyone, including our many visitors. We believe that it is the right of every individual in Wales to participate and shape the cultural life of our country and communities.

Despite the unprecedented challenges caused by the pandemic, we are looking to the future and we have an outstanding base from which to re-build our tourism, hospitality, and cultural industries: St. Fagans has been named the best museum in the UK; partners like Bad Wolf and Netflix saw Wales create award-winning cinema and TV productions. Wales hosts internationally renowned events such as the Hay Festival, the ICC Cricket World Cup, the Volvo Ocean Race and Wales Rally GB. We are also famed for our home-grown events such as the Urdd Eisteddfod, the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Aberystwyth Comedy Festival and the Steelhouse Festival.

A Welsh Labour Government will champion our successes, harness the creativity and sporting ability of our young people, and enable our tourism, sports, and arts industries to maintain their proper place on the world stage.



***A Welsh Labour Government will champion our successes, harness the creativity and sporting ability of our young people, and enable our tourism, sports, and arts industries to maintain their proper place on the world stage***



# WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ The Welsh Labour Government has made an unprecedented commitment to the **Welsh Language** through Cymraeg 2050, with its ambition to reach **1 million Welsh speakers by 2050** and we have created a new language planning unit within the Welsh Government – Prosiect 2050.
- ✓ We have placed the Welsh language as a central component of our International Strategy and ensured we were centre stage at UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages – reinforcing our status as **a leading country for language rejuvenation**.
- ✓ We are delivering on our strategy for making the **Welsh Government a fully bilingual organisation by 2050** and through the launch of 'Helo Blod,' a free support and translation service for small businesses across Wales.
- ✓ Through our ambitious '**Welcome to Wales**' tourism strategy and our remarkable tourism industry, Wales secured numerous awards including:
  - National Geographic top 25 trips in the World.
  - National Geographic, top 3 global destination for adventure.
  - Visit Wales won a silver award for best destination marketing.
  - Lonely Planet's top 5 best sustainable trips.
- ✓ We have supported jobs in the **creative industries** through the establishment of **Creative Wales** and provided funding for key creative projects across the country.
- ✓ We established **Sporting Heritage** to celebrate and protect our incredible sporting success. We strengthened **Sports Wales** to further promote our world-class facilities and athletes and provide support for grassroots clubs and activities.
- ✓ We have promoted sport and exercise widely and created the **Healthy and Active Fund** to encourage families and young people to make the most of our remarkable country.
- ✓ We provided the largest budget in a decade to **conserve, support and increase access to our world-class heritage sites**. This includes £4m to redevelop Caerphilly Castle, over £3.5m for Caernarfon Castle, £1m for Tretower Court and £1.2m for Coity Castle.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Establish a **National Music Service** to make sure that a lack of money is no barrier to young people learning to play an instrument.
- 2** Consult on legislation permitting local authorities to raise a **tourism levy**, ring fenced to support improving the visitor experience in Wales and to help the local economy.
- 3** We will create a **Welsh language Communities Housing Plan** to strengthen Welsh language communities and we will work with partners in these communities to support young people in securing affordable homes. We will also work to protect Welsh place names.
- 4** Push forward with our goal of 1 million Welsh speakers. We will introduce a Cymraeg 2050 **Welsh Language Education Bill** to strengthen and increase our Welsh language school provision across Wales and ensure delivery of the Welsh Education Strategic Plan, expanding the role of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- 5** **Expand our Welsh language early years provision** including nursery groups, parent taster sessions and we will encourage people to choose to speak Welsh within their families. We will expand the **Pupil Immersion Programme** to ensure all newcomers to the language have access to Welsh medium education. The National Centre for Learning Welsh will help ensure that parents too have access to learning the language.
- 6** Introduce a pilot project which will incentivise young Welsh speakers to return from universities to **help teach Welsh in schools** for the final weeks of the school term. This will give our young people a taste of teaching, encouraging them to take up teacher training through the medium of Welsh.
- 7** Provide **free access to the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2022 on its centenary anniversary**.
- 8** Invest in our theatres and museums, including committing to **Theatr Clwyd, establishing the Football Museum and the National Contemporary Art Gallery**.
- 9** Tell the full story of our country by ensuring that **Black, Asian, and Ethnic Minority histories** are properly reflected throughout our cultural and heritage sectors including in our National Museums.
- 10** Invest in our world-class sports facilities, promote **equal access to sports** and support young and talented athletes and grassroots clubs. We will invest in new facilities such as 4G pitches.
- 11** Work with key partners in TV, film and in education to establish a **Creative Skills Body** to cultivate home-grown excellence particularly among our young people. We will also consider establishing a **Creative Industry Research and Development Fund** so that Wales is always at the forefront of skills and technology.
- 12** Support the application to identify the **slate landscape of North West Wales as a World Heritage Site**. We will work with local organisations to promote this cultural and economic opportunity and we will develop plans for a **Museum of North Wales**.



# ***OUR HOMES, COMMUNITIES AND COUNCILS***

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## OUR HOMES, COMMUNITIES AND COUNCILS

**As we plan for the future, Welsh Labour is committed to making our cities, towns and villages good places to live and work in - accessible by public transport, cleaner and greener, where the wellbeing of the whole community is paramount.**

We all appreciate, perhaps now more than ever, what it means to have a safe, secure roof over our heads and somewhere to call home. A Welsh Labour Government will continue to build homes for the future – well-built climate-secure homes, which families want and can afford to rent or buy.

The experience of the pandemic gave us reason to thank our local councillors, local leaders, and local council workers in maintaining key services. These services are part of the glue that binds our communities together and it is local government that provides the means for people to decide how they want their villages, towns, and cities to be run. We will continue to invest in local services and local democracy.

In Wales we also have a long tradition of looking after each other through volunteering, local charitable organisations, faith groups and community associations. We understand what can be achieved when people from all backgrounds work together with equal respect. And we will always put collaboration before competition.

The pandemic has brought many changes to how we work, travel, and spend our leisure time. Welsh Labour will make the most of the opportunities that these changes present. As the role of retail and services in our towns and cities changes, we will ensure that they still thrive as centres of social exchange, public services, education, health, leisure, sport, and culture.



***A Welsh Labour Government will continue to build homes for the future – well-built climate-secure homes, which families want and can afford to rent or buy***



# WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ We have **invested £2bn in housing** over the last five years, implemented the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and started the Optimised Retrofit Programme. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, we have **delivered on our promise to build 20,000 affordable homes** across Wales.
- ✓ Our £140m four-year **Innovative Housing Programme for new and innovative housing designs** to meet challenges including pressing housing need, fuel poverty, climate change and demographic change – it will **deliver around 1,900 homes**.
- ✓ Our Renting Homes (2016) Act will make renting a home in Wales simpler and fairer and our Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Act will mean **security of tenure in Wales will be greater than elsewhere in the UK**.
- ✓ We have **housed record numbers of homeless people throughout the pandemic**.
- ✓ Despite all the challenges of Covid, the Welsh Government concluded the legislative process to enact the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, putting councils on a strong footing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century **and enabling people aged over 16 to vote in their next local elections**.
- ✓ Following the darkest days of Tory austerity, **Welsh Government has invested in Local Government** with successive settlements which have preserved essential services.
- ✓ Our **£110m investment in Transforming Towns** is working to redesign and reinvigorate our town centres.
- ✓ We have **funded 500 Police Community Support Officers** to help make our communities safer. These officers provide a valuable means of communication between people and the police, empowering local communities and helping to solve problems at a local level.
- ✓ The Welsh Labour Government and local authorities have **developed their regional capacity to deliver** investment projects with Regional Coordinators, building partnerships with local authorities and other regional institutions.
- ✓ The Welsh Labour Government's **framework for land use planning** has been developed to give priority to **sustaining the use of the Welsh language** in communities.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

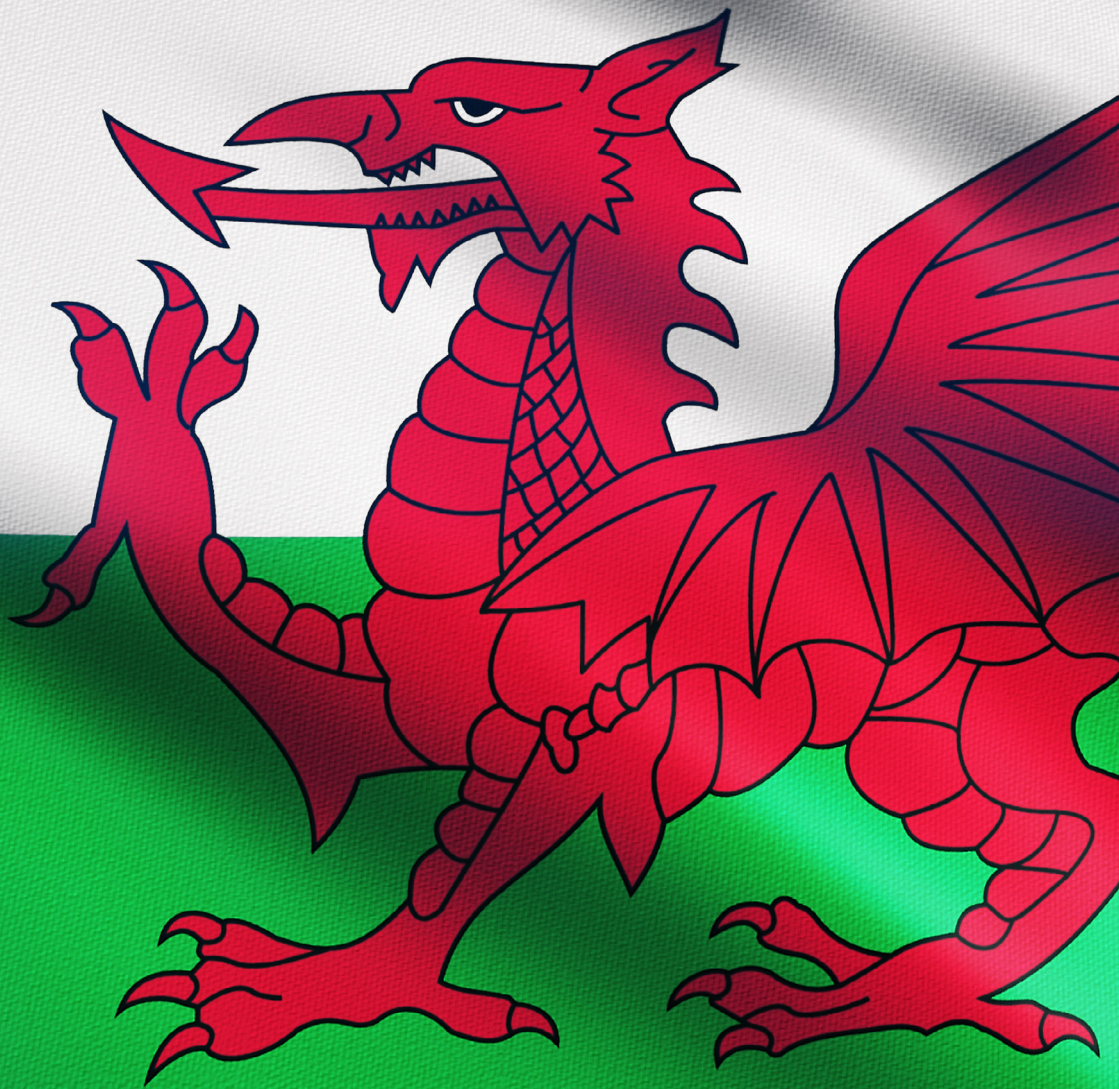
- 1** Maintain our funding of 500 **Police Community Support Officers** and expand their number by 100 over the term of the next Senedd.
- 2** Build **20,000 new, low carbon social homes for rent**. We will also support cooperative housing, community-led initiatives, and community land trusts. We will continue to improve existing homes, helping us tackle fuel poverty, create much needed jobs, training opportunities, and supply chains.
- 3** Build in the right way using materials with low levels of embodied carbon, such as timber, and specifically Welsh timber, **creating a timber based industrial strategy** that can develop and sustain the high value production and processing of Welsh wood. This will take us further in tackling fuel poverty, create sustainable jobs and provide research and training opportunities.
- 4** Help businesses to work co-operatively to support **local supply chains, including local delivery and logistics** services to enable our communities to become more sustainable and more agile economically.
- 5** **Keep the 1% increase in Land Transaction Tax charged on second home purchases**. We will work with communities to explore and develop effective tax, planning and housing measures - which could include local rates of Land Transaction Tax - to ensure the interests of local people are protected.
- 6** Improve **building safety** so that people feel safe and secure in their homes. Alongside this important work, we will develop a fire safety fund for existing buildings.
- 7** Legislate to enact the recommendations of the Law Commission in relation to **leasehold** and ensure that **estate charges** for public open spaces and facilities are paid for in a way that is fair.
- 8** Strengthen the **autonomy and effectiveness of local government** to make them more successful in delivering services. Across government, we will explore where services and contracts can sustainably and affordably be brought back into a strengthened public sector.
- 9** **Reduce the administrative burden** on local authorities so that they get on with their vitally important work, including changing the performance framework for local government to better enable innovation, transparency, and local ownership.
- 10** Ensure that each region in Wales has effective and democratically accountable means of developing their future economies with **coordinated regional transport and land use planning**.
- 11** We will develop a national scheme **restricting rent to local housing allowance levels** for families and young people who are priced out of the private rental market and those who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness. We will ensure **Rent Smart Wales** landlords respond quickly to complaints of racism and hate crime and offer appropriate support.

**12** Develop community recycling facilities in town centres and promote repair and re-use facilities to **encourage zero-waste shopping**. Working in partnership with Councils, the voluntary sector and community groups, we will create **more community green space in town centres**. We will repurpose public space for outdoor events, markets, street vendors, pop up parks and 'parklets'.

# ***OUR NATION***

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**Wales is a confident, welcoming, and outward-looking European nation that celebrates different cultures and believes passionately in equality, fairness, and internationalism. We are determined to build and strengthen relationships around the world. There has never been a more important time for our country to have the strongest possible presence on the world stage.**

The issues we face - Covid, climate change, the global economy and political polarisation - cannot be solved alone. Over the last five years, we have worked more closely than ever with our friends and allies in Europe and beyond, as we have reaffirmed our commitments to Europe, securing PPE, bolstering our economy, and supporting developing nations.

The EU referendum in 2016 set us a challenge in Wales, which still confronts us today, as the UK seeks to reposition itself on the world stage and in the global economy. The thin and badly mismanaged Tory deal, struck with the EU at the last minute, has serious consequences for our pandemic-damaged economy, particularly manufacturing and agri-food.

The UK Conservative Government has betrayed Wales by failing to honour its promise that we would not be a penny worse off leaving the EU. There is a real danger over the longer term that the coherent and integrated Welsh Government strategy for the development of all our regions, in partnership with public bodies, business and the third sector, will be set aside in favour of piecemeal projects hand-picked by Tory ministers to meet their political priorities.

The UK Internal Market Act undermines our powers to make laws that reflect the priorities of the people of Wales for safe food, a clean environment, and a progressive response to the climate emergency. Devolution itself is now under serious threat from a Conservative Government without a mandate from the people of Wales whose 'take back control' soundbite has become a rallying call for the centralisation of power to Whitehall and away from the people.

We believe the UK is a voluntary association of four nations with sovereignty shared among its four democratic legislatures in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We support the UK-wide Constitutional Commission being established by the Labour Party to drive forward much-needed change to a system of governance of the UK that is irreparably broken and will remain so without a UK Labour Government.

Welsh Labour will fight for radical constitutional change based on the principles of federalism and in the next Senedd we will lead Wales in a national civic conversation about our constitutional future. We will build on the work of the Senedd Committee on electoral reform, chaired by Welsh Labour's Dawn Bowden, and develop proposals to improve the representation of the people of Wales in their Parliament.



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# WHAT WE DID IN GOVERNMENT

- ✓ We set up the **Welsh Revenue Authority** and introduced a suite of devolved Welsh taxes. We are the only UK country to replace stamp duty on house purchases with a **new land transaction** tax with a starting threshold higher than the average price of a home.
- ✓ **We kept our promise not to increase Welsh rates of income tax.**
- ✓ We have consistently argued for parity of esteem between the different governments and legislatures of the union and for a **more deeply devolved Wales.**
- ✓ **We led the resistance** to the UK Conservative Government's attempt to overturn Wales' devolution settlement in the UK Internal Market Act, including action in the courts.
- ✓ We set out in our joint policy document with Plaid Cymru, **Securing Wales' Future** - a rational and coherent policy on Brexit. We argued for the **closest possible economic relationship with the EU** while respecting the EU referendum result.
- ✓ We worked intensively with partners in local government, private sector, unions, voluntary sector, and higher education for more than three years **to develop a Framework for Regional Investment** to manage successor funding to the European Structural Funds.
- ✓ We have published a ground-breaking **International Strategy** to give Wales a voice on the world stage. The strategy makes clear our commitment to **promoting key industries and our universities, projecting Wales as a modern, confident, high-tech, creative, and sustainable nation.**
- ✓ We have launched our export and inward investment plan and through our overseas offices, we **have secured millions of pounds worth of investment in Wales.**
- ✓ We have appointed **four honorary envoys** to promote Welsh business overseas, including in Japan and the USA.
- ✓ We have worked with key regions including **Brittany, Quebec, Flanders and the Basque Country** to promote and strengthen our cyber security industry, our environmental and energy industry and on minority language development.
- ✓ Welsh Labour fought for the **right of 16 and 17 year-olds** to vote in Senedd elections and extended the franchise for local government and Senedd elections to both them and to all those resident in Wales, regardless of nationality.

# WELSH LABOUR'S PROMISE TO WALES

## WE WILL:

- 1** Work for a **new and successful United Kingdom, based on a far-reaching federalism**. We want to foster a national, civic conversation in Wales about our future. We will **establish an independent, standing commission to consider the constitutional future of Wales**.
- 2** Promote and support the work of the UK-wide Constitutional Commission being established by the UK Labour Party. We will work across the four nations, with the UK Labour Party and other UK parties and with the House of Lords **to press the UK Government for a more thoroughgoing federal reform** of our constitution and inter-governmental relations.
- 3** **Not take more in Welsh rates of income tax** from Welsh families for at least as long as the economic impact of coronavirus lasts. We will commit to reforming council tax to ensure a fairer system for all.
- 4** Pursue the case for the **devolution of policing and justice**, as set out by the Thomas Commission.
- 5** Challenge the UK Internal Market Act and its attack on devolution and **champion the rights of the Senedd** to legislate without interference in areas devolved to Wales. We will strive to prevent the UK Conservative Government using the Internal Market Act to fund interventions not supported by the people of Wales. **We will insist that Wales gets its fair share** of the Shared Prosperity Fund and the so-called Levelling Up Fund from Whitehall and that the funding we receive is spent in accordance with our Framework for Regional Investment.
- 6** Argue for **closer economic and research ties with the EU**, removing many of the barriers that the Tory fixation with fictional notions of sovereignty has erected. We will reaffirm our strong relationship with the EU and our voice in Europe by retaining the Welsh Government's office in Brussels. Our **new European Envoy for Wales** will be tasked with ensuring the strongest possible voice for Wales in the EU.
- 7** Implement our new **Export Plan promoting Wales in the world**, reinforcing our network of international offices and our existing links with regions in Europe and beyond, connecting with the Welsh diaspora to celebrate Wales' contribution to the world.
- 8** Establish a **Peace Academy** – Academi Heddwch – in Wales. It will form an independent community of researchers and help shape our international strategies and programmes. The Academi will draw on the experience of the peace mission of the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen.
- 9** Campaign for the under-funded **Health and Safety Executive** to be devolved to Wales and we will manage it properly.
- 10** Put in place a **£65 million international learning exchange programme** to last the whole of the next Senedd term, enabling Welsh students, learners, teachers and young people to benefit from invaluable opportunities to **study and get work experience overseas**, despite the cultural vandalism of the Tory Government's decision not to support the EU's Erasmus programme. We will also reinvigorate our twinning relationships across the EU through a **Young People's Twinning Fund**. This will fund trips to twinned cities and town across the EU for young people from disadvantaged communities.

**11** Develop a set of **Codes of Welsh law**, making it easier for people to access and understand their legal rights. This would in time include codes for housing, social care, public health, and schools.

**12** Make the case for **clear and stable tax devolution** for Wales that is fit for purpose and no longer held back by the UK Tory Government.