



What you need to know: Scottish election manifestos 2021

Background

This Thursday, 6 May, voters will head to the polling stations to elect a new Scottish Parliament.

In 2020 CIH Scotland published [Homes at the Heart](#), a manifesto for the housing sector, calling for all parties to place housing at the heart of their manifestos, to ensure the achievement of a fairer, more equal and greener Scotland.

This briefing provides an overview of the key housing pledges made by the five main political parties. Their full manifestos can be found here:

- [Scottish National Party Manifesto](#)
- [Scottish Conservative & Unionist Manifesto](#)
- [Scottish Labour Manifesto](#)
- [Scottish Liberal Democrats Manifesto](#)
- [Scottish Greens Manifesto](#)

Housing Supply

Scottish National Party commits to delivering a further 100,000 affordable homes by 2032, backed by an investment of £3.5 over the parliament.

Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party manifesto includes the delivery of 60,000 new affordable homes, with two thirds comprising social housing.

Scottish Labour Party commits to delivering at least 120,000 zero-carbon social houses over the next decade, with the aim of building 200,000 social homes in that time.

Scottish Liberal Democrats manifesto incorporates an initial programme of building 60,000 homes, including 40,000 for social rent over the next five years.

Scottish Green Party manifesto supports the building of 70,000 homes by 2026 and a further 50,000 homes between 2027 and 2032, 70 percent of which should comprise social rent.

Homelessness

Scottish National Party has identified ending homelessness as a continuing national priority and plans to invest £50m to end homelessness and rough sleeping (in addition to the existing £50m

Ending Homelessness Together fund). The manifesto also entails the introduction of legislation strengthening people's housing rights and public bodies a duty to prevent homelessness.

Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party manifesto details their strategy to eradicating rough sleeping by 2026, investing £10.8m to deliver a national Housing First Programme. In the medium term, they also pledge to commit to a Help to Rent scheme, supporting homeless people to sustain a tenancy in the private rented sector (PRS).

Scottish Labour Party also commit to ending rough sleeping in the next parliament, implementing the recommendations of the Prevention Review Group and legislation to strengthen homelessness prevention. The manifesto also comprises their commitment to ensuring the adequate funding of Housing First.

Scottish Liberal Democrats pledge to build 60,000 affordable homes to tackle homelessness, as well as taking forward the Housing First and Rapid Rehousing principles. Their manifesto also includes introducing new legislation to strengthen duties on public bodies to prevent homelessness.

Scottish Green Party manifesto outlines their dedication to ending homelessness within the next ten years through updating the legislative framework and rolling out the Housing First approach as well as offering permanent tenancies and tailored wrap-around support services to those that are homeless.

Private Rented Sector

Scottish National Party has pledged to develop a new Rented Sector Strategy in 2021, to cover all types of rented home, providing greater protections for tenants.

Scottish Labour Party has committed to reforming the PRS, implementing their Fair Rents Bill proposals to limit rent rises and improve quality standards.

Scottish Green Party has outlined intentions to legislate to transform the PRS to provide greater security and standards for tenants, establishing a

PRS Regulator as well as reviewing the effectiveness of the First Tier Tribunal system.

Energy Efficiency and Climate Change

Scottish National Party has pledged to commit to investing £1.6bn to decarbonise one million homes by 2030, establish a Zero Emissions Social Housing Task Force, and ensure that new buildings use renewable/zero emissions heating from 2024.

Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party manifesto commits to investing £2.5bn over the next five years on energy efficiency in homes and buildings, as well as creating a Help to Renovate scheme to support owners, setting aside a specific Rural Transition Fund, and updating the EPC system.

Scottish Labour Party will introduce an Energy Efficient Scotland Bill, including a commitment to eradicate fuel poverty by 2030. The manifesto also highlights their intention to upgrade all homes to an energy efficiency rating of at least C by 2030 and potentially zero carbon by 2045, alongside the establishment of a national housing agency to coordinate the roll out of measures.

Scottish Liberal Democrats will introduce a Zero Carbon Bill to underpin a new zero carbon homes strategy, as well as declaring home insulation a national priority covering the whole country by 2030. Other commitments include moving one million homes to heat pumps by 2030, all new-build EPC A by 2025 and Passivhaus by 2030 and investing in low-carbon heat networks.

The CIH view

CIH Scotland welcomes the political ambition on housing throughout the manifestos. In particular, we welcome the clear statements of intent in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the positive contributions that these will make in tackling homelessness. [Research published by CIH Scotland](#), Shelter Scotland and SFHA demonstrates that we must deliver at least 53,000 affordable homes over the next five years if we are to meet housing need and address homelessness

It is also critical that the effects of climate change are urgently addressed. If the Scottish Government is to meet its ambitious climate change commitments and achieve net-zero emissions, Scotland's homes must be energy efficient. To this end, there is scope for optimism, given the commitment evidenced throughout the political manifestos to decarbonise Scotland's homes with regards to both new and existing buildings.

We also welcome the plans to establish a new Scottish Housing Standard across all tenures. The incorporation of new legislation in relation to a new housing standard will prove of vital importance in generating a single set of quality and accessibility standards.

We look forward to working with the next Scottish Government to scope out the funding required to deliver these ambitions, including the costs to landlords, tenants and customers across all tenures, in providing an increase in the quality and quantity of social and affordable housing



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Scottish Green

Party has pledged to ensure that all homes reach a minimum Energy performance Standard C or above by 2030, aiming for zero carbon by 2040.

This will be supported through new legislation, alongside at least £500m of public investment and leveraging £7.5bn in private investment. The manifesto also entails the funding of an energy leap programme to upgrade the most inefficient homes, supporting a ban on new fossil fuel boilers from 2028 for all buildings, and establishing a £500m heat networks fund.

Scottish Housing Standard

Scottish National Party has pledged to introduce a new Housing Standard, entrenched in law, by 2025 to cover all homes. It includes repairing and safety standards, minimum space standards, digital connectivity and energy efficiency/heating standards.

Scottish Liberal Democrats manifesto entails the establishment of a Scottish Standard for Housing for all forms of tenure, to include zero emission heat, energy performance, lifetime accessibility and a minimum of gigabit-ready broadband.

Scottish Green Party manifesto set out the delivery of a universal statutory standard for habitable housing across all tenures, along with a review of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.