

# **FIX WALES**



Welsh  
Conservatives

Ceidwadwyr  
Cymreig

## **OUR PLAN TO GET WALES WORKING**

**WELSH CONSERVATIVE PARTY MANIFESTO 2026**



Wales is a proud nation with enormous potential: rich in talent, strong in community and central to the future of the United Kingdom. Yet for too many people the basics are getting harder. Long waits for treatment, rising costs for families and businesses, and opportunities that feel out of reach have created a clear sense that government is not delivering. This manifesto is our plan to change that - practical, credible, and focused on the everyday concerns of people across Wales.

I look forward to working closely with Darren Millar and his team to deliver for Wales. At a UK level we are focused on the priorities people raise time and again: controlled immigration, lower taxes so working people keep more of what they earn, and an end to wasteful spending that doesn't reflect the public's priorities. Working together, the Welsh Conservatives together with a strong Conservative voice at a UK level, will provide the partnership Wales needs.

For 27 years, Wales has been governed by the same party. Over that time too many opportunities have been missed: projects promised and then cancelled, like the M4 relief road; a health service under sustained pressure; businesses, farmers, pubs, and post offices struggling under rising costs. These are not abstract problems. They affect families, communities, and the prospects of the next generation. After nearly three decades, we expect better.

Darren Millar and his team are offering a serious, credible alternative. This manifesto sets out practical policies to get Wales working again: cutting income tax; tackling NHS waiting lists; backing business and industry with lower energy costs, less red tape, and a renewed commitment to building and growing the Welsh economy. We believe Wales should reward enterprise, have high standards in public services, and give young people the chance to build their future here at home.

We are clear about what we stand for. We believe in the strength of the United Kingdom and the security it brings to pensions, jobs, and our shared prosperity. We reject the false promises of those who would divide our country, and we will not be distracted by parties more interested in protest than in governing. Our approach is rooted in optimism. We recognise that too many things are not working as they should – and we have a plan to fix them.

If you want change, competence, and a team that will get Wales working, then choose Darren Millar and the Welsh Conservatives.

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP  
Leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party



This Senedd election is an opportunity for a clean break from the failed agenda pursued by Labour and Plaid Cymru, and a chance to rocket-boost our economy to get Wales working.

Under Labour and Plaid Cymru, our economy has trailed every other UK nation and region, and our youth unemployment rate is the worst in the UK. Labour's high tax agenda has killed off economic growth and made it more difficult for those who start and run a business, create jobs and generate prosperity for our nation.

While Labour and Plaid budget deals have wasted taxpayers' money on gimmicks, virtue signalling and vanity projects, the people of Wales have had to contend with some of the lowest wages, and worst educational and health outcomes in the UK.

Welsh Conservatives have a credible plan to fix Wales and get Wales working.

We want Wales to be a land of opportunity.

We are on the side of family firms and family farms. We will scrap businesses rates for small businesses and focus relentlessly on growing our economy so we can afford to invest in better quality public services. We will support hardworking families by cutting their taxes, extending free childcare, and helping people to realise their dream of home ownership.

On day one, we will declare a health emergency to ensure that every part of the machinery of government is focussed on tackling the crisis in our NHS. We will put an end to patients waiting too long for ambulances, tests and vital treatment. We'll restore discipline and academic rigour in our schools by backing teachers, banning social media and equipping young people with the skills they need to compete in the global jobs market. And we'll reverse Labour's unnecessary 20mph speed limits, and their anti-motorist agenda, by improving transport connectivity to create the conditions to drive economic growth.

In this new electoral system, every vote counts. If you vote Welsh Conservative, you will get a Welsh Conservative representative in the Senedd, fighting for you and your family.

Together, let's fix Wales and get Wales working.

Darren Millar MS  
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives



# GET WALES WORKING

After 27 years of Labour, propped up by Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats, the Welsh economy is lagging behind the rest of the United Kingdom. Wages are lower and unemployment is higher than elsewhere, while our infrastructure and transport networks are creaking from a lack of investment and virtue-signalling policies like 20mph and a ban on road building.

Our economic growth plan for Wales will deliver more jobs and prosperity. It will get our transport networks moving and help to rebuild our economy so we can level up across the country, create employment, take advantage of new technology and encourage investment across the whole of Wales.



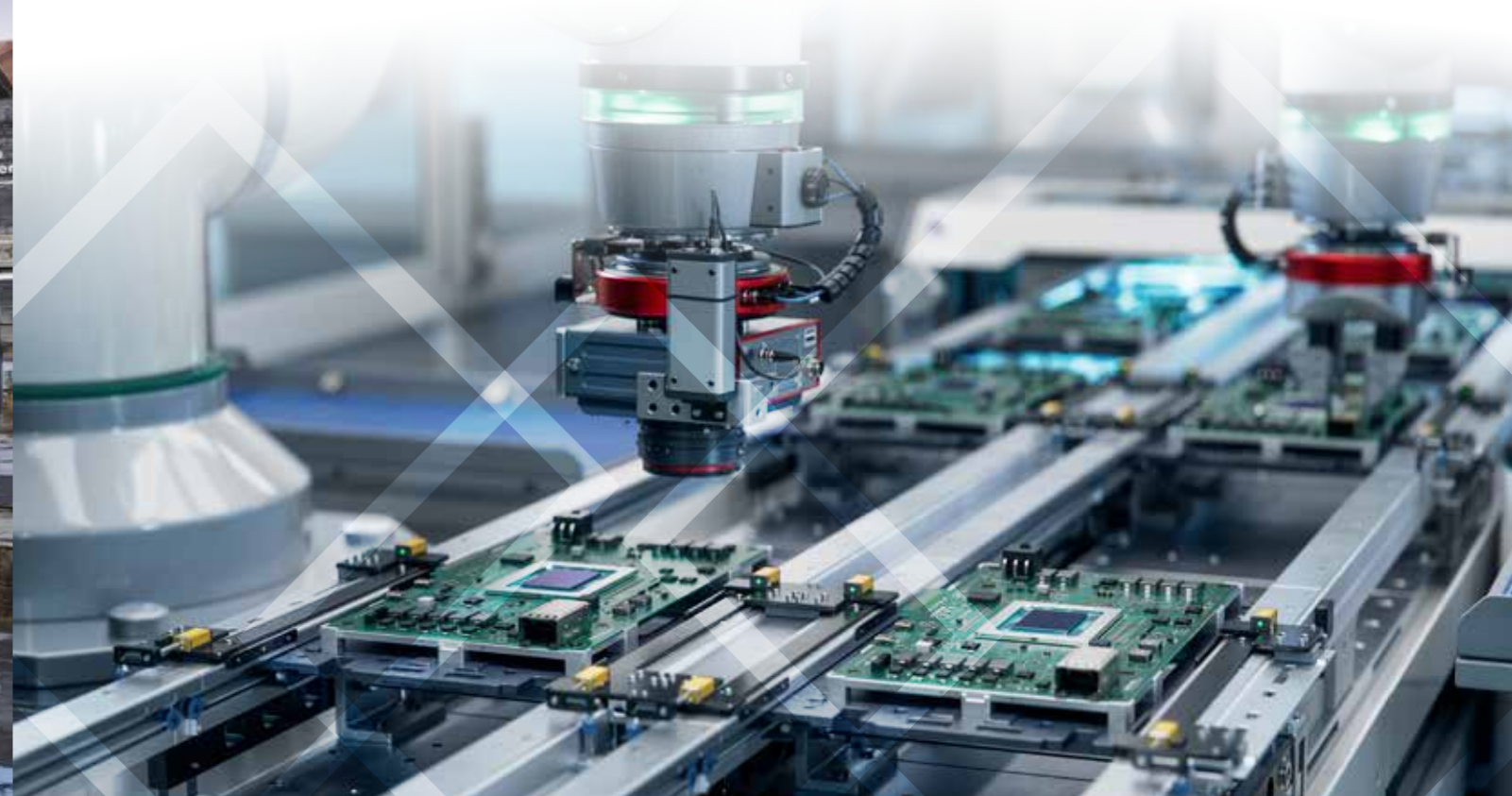
## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### GET WALES WORKING AND HELP OUR HIGH STREETS

- » Scrap business rates for small firms, pubs and post offices
- » Pilot Business Rate free periods for new retail businesses seeking to open stores on Welsh high streets
- » Make public procurement contracts more accessible, particularly to small businesses, and give priority to Welsh firms
- » Work with local councils to extend access to free parking in town centres
- » Take action to address mobile blackspots and poor broadband speeds

### PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN WALES

- » Re-establish a Welsh Development Agency to attract inward investment, promote business growth and support job creation
- » Develop growth strategies for, and prioritise investment in, energy, healthcare, defence, aerospace, agriculture, tourism, financial services, and the creative industries
- » Maximise the benefits of Growth Deals, Freeports, Enterprise and Investment Zones, and AI and Semiconductor Growth Zones
- » Establish a world-leading manufacturing innovation centre, led by the private sector, in North East Wales
- » Promote marine energy projects
- » Support nuclear energy opportunities at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd
- » Secure the modernisation and future of the Welsh steel industry



# FIX OUR TRANSPORT NETWORK

## ROADS

- » End the war on motorists, unfreeze all road projects and abandon plans for road pricing
- » Reverse the 20mph default speed limit in built up areas and adopt a targeted approach instead
- » Designate the M4, A55 and A40 as 'Union Highways' to ensure their prioritisation as strategic routes for the United Kingdom as a whole
- » Build the M4 relief road, upgrade the A55, deliver a third Menai crossing and progress the dualling of the A40 in West Wales
- » Review the Trunk Road network in mid-Wales to identify opportunities to reduce travel times
- » Improve the electric vehicle charging network across Wales
- » Introduce a Pothole Guarantee and require local authorities to repair potholes within 48 hours of being reported

## BUS AND RAIL

- » Build resilience in the bus network, including in rural areas
- » Protect free bus travel and extend it to all 16–24 year-olds and military veterans
- » Deliver improvements to Transport for Wales' rail capacity, reliability, punctuality and performance
- » Work with the UK Government to secure the electrification of the North Wales Main Line and the delivery of new stations to meet demand
- » Press for consequential funding for all rail spending in England
- » Improve rail links between North Wales and the North West of England, including Manchester and Liverpool Airports
- » Offer free rail cards to all 16-24 year-olds
- » Pilot free off-peak rail travel for concessionary travel pass holders

## AIR

- » Return Cardiff Airport to private operators to save taxpayers' money and help it thrive
- » Support route development at Cardiff Airport, prioritising direct flight links to North America



# CUT TAX

**Under Labour, the UK tax burden is at an all-time high and here in Wales, people pay more as a proportion of their income in taxes than elsewhere in Britain.**

There is no such thing as public money – there is only taxpayers' money. A Welsh Conservative Government will be determined to axe frivolous spending, root out waste and deliver value for money for the people of Wales. We will use the savings to get Wales working, invest in better services and cut taxes to put money back in the pockets of hardworking families.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### CUT TAXES

- » Cut the basic rate of income tax by 1p, saving the average working family £450 per year
- » Scrap Land Transaction Tax (Stamp Duty) on primary residences to help people get onto and move up and down, the housing ladder
- » Cap council tax increases at 5% and require local referendums for larger rises

### CUT WASTE

- » Scrap Labour's overseas mini-embassy network
- » Prevent spending on international development projects, including tree planting in Uganda and solar powered canoes in Peru
- » Abolish the post and office of the Future Generations Commissioner
- » Introduce a Public Sector Pay Restraint Bill to address excessive salaries for senior managers in taxpayer-funded organisations

# FIX OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY

Wales is a beautiful nation with plenty to offer for domestic and international visitors, but the anti-tourism rhetoric and policies of Labour and Plaid Cymru have undermined the efforts of tourism operators and deterred people from visiting Wales.

Welsh Conservatives back our tourism industry. We want to restore Wales' reputation for a welcome in the hillsides and vales, and to help people to discover the riches of our landscapes, history and heritage. By cutting taxes and red tape, we will enable tourism businesses to thrive and better showcase Wales to the world.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- » Scrap Labour and Plaid Cymru's Tourism Tax
- » Reduce the 182-day rule for holiday lets to 105 days
- » Review permitted development rights in relation to tourism enterprises
- » Pilot an effective 5% rate of VAT on tourism accommodation
- » Develop a Growth Strategy for Tourism
- » Establish operational independence for Visit Wales and ensure that it is industry-led
- » Invest in a global marketing campaign to promote Wales as a visitor destination
- » Support Wrexham's bid to be the UK's City of Culture in 2029
- » Establish a Seaside Towns Fund and a Market Towns Fund to support regeneration and improve the appearance of our coastal resorts and other towns relying on tourism
- » Establish free parking zones in seaside resorts at the weekends
- » Support the creation of new national visitor attractions, including a National Military Museum for Wales and a Welsh Sports Hall of Fame
- » Develop action plans to promote tourism related to Welsh religious heritage, film and TV locations and genealogy

# FIX OUR NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE



**Under Labour and Plaid Cymru, the performance of the Welsh NHS has fallen behind other parts of the UK and been beset by scandals.** People here wait longer for ambulances, longer for tests, longer for treatment and longer in emergency departments than elsewhere in the UK. The Welsh Labour Government has failed to improve failing health boards. Patients have suffered, come to harm and even died as a result.

Welsh Conservatives believe in a National Health Service that is free at the point of use - for everyone, based on their needs, not their ability to pay. We have a plan to fix our NHS and fix social care, delivering dignity for older people and ensuring they can retain their independence for as long as possible.

Our plan will deliver better hospitals, improve services, promote choice and provide the person-centred care that the people of Wales deserve.

## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### DECLARE A HEALTH EMERGENCY AND IMMEDIATELY IMPROVE NHS CAPACITY AND SAFETY

- » Declare a health emergency in response to the crisis in our NHS
- » Immediately reopen closed wards in existing community hospitals across Wales to support patients with step down and rehabilitation care closer to home
- » Initiate an urgent review of hospital bed capacity and increase bed numbers in district general hospitals to prevent excessive emergency department waits and delayed transfers of care from ambulances
- » Clear the NHS waiting time backlog so that by the end of the Senedd term no-one has an unacceptable wait for treatment

## INVEST IN THE NHS

- » Increase spending on health and social care in real terms in each and every year of the next Senedd term
- » Establish an NHS Wales Efficiency Taskforce to drive out waste and deliver better value for money
- » Increase funding for primary care in each and every year and boost the proportion of NHS funding allocated to primary care

## SUPPORT OUR NHS STAFF

- » Retain, recruit and train more doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives and other health professionals to end Labour's recruitment crisis and improve access to appointments
- » Establish an NHS Wales Reserves Service to establish a bank of trained and vetted volunteer staff to help the NHS in times of crisis and peak demand
- » Develop a workforce strategy, with safe staffing levels, for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) in the Welsh NHS to support people to stay active for longer and in work supporting the Welsh economy, maximising prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation
- » Refund tuition fees for doctors, dentists and nurses who work for the Welsh NHS for 5 years post qualification
- » Implement, in full, the recommendations of the Independent Pay Review Panel on NHS pay in Wales

## IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- » Establish a 21st Century Hospitals Fund to build new hospitals and modernise the hospital and primary care estate in Wales
- » Stop Labour's programme of hospital closures and downgrades
- » Secure the future of stroke services at Bronglais Hospital and emergency surgery at Withybush Hospital
- » Build four new Community Hospitals with Minor Injuries Units, including a hospital in Rhyl with 30 beds
- » Develop a network of Surgical Hubs and Diagnostic Centres, open 7 days per week across Wales, to increase capacity, reduce waiting times for tests and treatment, and reduce the need for repeat hospital appointments
- » Ensure that everyone in Wales can access an annual check-up with an NHS dentist

## IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES

- » Create a Cancer Treatments Fund and a Rare Disease Fund so that doctors can use the most innovative, life-saving treatments for cancer and rare diseases
- » Improve access to GPs with a guarantee that patients don't have to wait longer than 7 days for an appointment
- » Work with stakeholders to develop and publish within 12 months, new national delivery plans for Wales' four biggest killers – cancer, heart disease, stroke and dementia
- » Extend the role of community pharmacies in delivering health care, including extending prescribing to more common ailments and conditions

## IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH

- » Promote healthy eating and lifestyles throughout the school curriculum
- » Enhance smoking cessation services with the use of e-cigarettes as a tool to help people quit smoking for good
- » Utilise community pharmacies to maximise the impact of public health campaigns
- » Ensure the delivery of periodic campaigns to promote awareness of symptoms of cancer, heart disease, stroke and dementia
- » Introduce a national prostate cancer screening programme

## TRANSFORM MENTAL HEALTH

- » Increase spending on mental health and wellbeing services in real terms in each and every year
- » Establish a number of mental health crises centres across Wales, open 24/7, to provide timely access to care and support
- » Publish mental health waiting times and other performance data
- » Increase the capacity of mental health services for children and young people (CAMHS services) to prevent placements at great distances from their loved ones
- » Establish a dedicated mother and baby unit in North Wales for those with severe post-natal mental health challenges



## IMPROVE SOCIAL CARE

- » Increase the capital limit to £75,000 for those accessing residential care to ensure that people do not lose their life savings in care costs
- » Promote joint working between the NHS and social service departments
- » Establish an Independent Commission to consider long-term sustainable funding solutions for social care
- » Encourage the use of personal budgets and direct payments to empower those in receipt of social care to make personal choices
- » Introduce a right to respite for carers and give them free access to training and support
- » Recognise the role of young carers with a Young Carers Card scheme, the provision of free bus travel and grants to access education, training and employment opportunities

## EXPAND PATIENT CHOICE AND PROMOTE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- » Publish a Patients' Rights Charter to enshrine patient choice about their own care and treatment
- » Introduce hospital performance ratings to give patients confidence in exercising their right to choose
- » Print the costs of individual NHS prescriptions on labels to promote patient responsibility and minimise waste
- » Pilot charges for missed NHS appointments
- » Increase penalties for those who abuse NHS staff or smoke in hospital grounds

## IMPROVE STANDARDS OF GOVERNANCE AND SAFETY

- » End corridor care in Wales and designate 12 hour waits for patients on chairs in A&E departments and assessment units as 'never events'
- » Establish a new single health and social care inspectorate that is independent of the Welsh Government, Health and Care Improvement Wales, to raise standards and promote good practice
- » Appoint an NHS Ombudsman for Wales to ensure learning from complaints, protect whistleblowers and promote patient safety
- » Initiate an independent inquiry into failures at the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to ensure accountability, learning, and deliver improvement
- » Commission an independent judge-led public inquiry into the Welsh Government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic to ensure proper scrutiny and ensure that lessons are learnt for the future

# FIX OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM

### Schools in Wales are underperforming and underfunded.

The Welsh Government receives 20% more per head in funding than over the border yet spends hundreds less per pupil each year on their education. International league tables show that under Labour and Plaid Cymru, our education system is ranked as the worst-performing in the UK and too many young people leave school functionally illiterate. Our children and young people deserve better.

A Welsh Conservative Government will drive up standards in both academic and vocational qualifications and address poor behaviour in the classroom. We will increase funding for schools, make further and higher education more attractive and accessible, and provide incentives for young people to stay in Wales, contribute to our economy, and reach their full potential.



# A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

## INVEST IN OUR SCHOOLS

- » Increase school funding each and every year
- » Introduce a National School Funding Formula to level up per pupil funding across Wales
- » Fund schools directly to ensure that more money gets into the classroom
- » Deliver an ambitious new school building programme
- » Encourage the creation of new specialist schools in the arts, sciences and sports
- » Widen access to school facilities, to enable community access outside school hours and term times

## IMPROVE STANDARDS

- » Permit the establishment of Academy Schools and Free Schools in Wales to improve learner outcomes
- » Drive up Wales' ranking in international education league tables
- » Establish an All-Wales Education Advisory Service to promote good practice
- » Extend unannounced school inspections
- » Improve literacy using evidence-based approaches
- » Initiate Standardised Assessment Tests in primary schools to measure pupil progress and school performance
- » Scrap the Welsh Baccalaureate to allow pupils to focus on internationally recognised qualifications
- » Establish a Welsh Excellence Fund to help more able and talented pupils realise their full potential

## BACK PROFESSIONALS AND RESTORE DISCIPLINE

- » Restore discipline and respect, and improve school attendance, through School Covenants between parents, teachers and pupils
- » Introduce automatic expulsions for pupils in possession of knives and other weapons
- » Ban mobile phones in schools and support a ban on social media for under-16s
- » Empower the Education Workforce Council to establish new routes into the teaching profession



## PROMOTE LEARNER WELLBEING, SAFETY AND LIFE-SKILLS

- » Protect female-only spaces and sports for women and girls in Welsh schools, colleges and universities
- » Promote aspiration, enterprise and entrepreneurship by establishing a social enterprise in every secondary school
- » Make Wales a Nation of Lifesavers by introducing first aid training in all schools
- » Ensure that pupils develop essential life-skills such as budgeting, how to manage a home and prepare a healthy meal via the introduction of mandatory Home Economics lessons
- » Review legislation and support arrangements for pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- » Guarantee access to outdoor education experiences

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES

- » Extend free childcare to children aged 9 months to 4 years old to help families to budget and enable a return to work
- » Give working parents a choice to nominate a grandparent to receive a Grandparent Childcare Payment of up to £4,800 per year to care for their grandchildren
- » Offer access to free parenting lessons to equip mums and dads with the skills and knowledge they need to raise their children with confidence and support healthy relationships at home
- » Protect children by commissioning a Wales-wide inquiry into grooming gangs

## ENHANCE PARENTAL RIGHTS AND CHOICE

- » Re-establish the right for parents to withdraw their children from sex education and religious education lessons
- » Establish a Welsh Schools Performance Portal to promote choice and help parents and learners compare data on school exam results, attendance, expulsions, financial performance, and easily access inspection reports
- » Enable good schools that are oversubscribed to increase their pupil places
- » Create more Welsh-medium school places
- » Require all local authorities to ensure that parents have a choice for their children of both English and Welsh medium schools
- » Protect free home to school transport, including for pupils attending their nearest Welsh-medium school

## WIDEN ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY AND ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

- » Work with the UK Government to cut excessive interest rates on student debt and reduce public funding for degree courses with poorer job prospects
- » Pilot a £1,000 tuition fee discount for those studying STEM subjects
- » Work with Welsh Universities to introduce intensive degrees that can be completed over two years
- » Require universities to publish more data on earnings and employment outcomes for their students
- » Encourage the take up of part-time, distance learning and flexible higher and further education courses
- » Introduce a Student Accommodation Quality Standard for halls of residence
- » Refund University tuition fees for nursing, medicine, teaching and dentistry students who study in Wales and go on to work for at least five years in the Welsh NHS or Welsh schools
- » Stamp out antisemitism and other forms of racism and hatred on university and higher education campuses
- » Partner with Welsh universities and the private sector to create a new centre of excellence and research into energy storage and transportation

## PROMOTE VOCATIONAL SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING

- » Ensure parity between technical and academic education
- » Set an ambitious target to deliver 125,000 apprenticeships over the next Senedd term to meet the skills Wales needs to drive economic growth
- » Deliver apprenticeship opportunities from all Welsh Government funded major infrastructure projects
- » Expand degree apprenticeships and access to higher education courses in Welsh colleges
- » Make Wales a Lifelong Learning Nation through entitlements to support for people to learn, upskill or retrain throughout their working lives
- » Promote engagement with the Turing Scheme for young people wanting to experience study, volunteer and work overseas
- » Establish a STEM focused Defence Academy for Wales

# SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

### Under Labour in Wales, older people have been an afterthought.

Many older people are now struggling, left languishing on waiting lists for NHS tests and treatment, and many needlessly lose their independence as a result.

Welsh Conservatives believe that old age is something to be celebrated. We want our older people to be afforded dignity and respect and to be able to make informed decisions about their own lives.

We will support older people in Wales to maintain their independence, remain active members of their community and help to provide security for the future.

## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- » Designate a Minister with responsibility for Older People
- » Bring forward an Older People's Rights Bill to extend and promote the rights of older people across Wales
- » Extend the powers of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- » Introduce a legal requirement for public sector bodies to consult with older people when making decisions that affect their lives
- » Make Wales the first No Cold Calling Nation to help protect older people from crime and financial scams
- » Extend privileges for our older people living in Wales including:
  - Free prescriptions
  - Free bus travel
  - Piloting free rail travel at off-peak times
  - Free entry into CADW sites for the over 60s
- » Run annual national awareness campaigns against elder abuse, age discrimination, and scams and swindles
- » Introduce a Grandparent Childcare Payment of up to £4,800 per year for grandparents who provide childcare for their grandchildren
- » Address digital exclusion in access to public services

# SUPPORT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Under Labour and Plaid Cymru, there has been a lack of meaningful action on protecting our natural environment. Action on environmental challenges has been sidelined in favour of virtue signalling while our rural communities have been neglected.

Our Welsh Conservative vision represents a comprehensive roadmap to transform our economy while protecting our unique national heritage. We are committed to reducing Wales' carbon emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change, but we will do so in a way that champions, rather than punishes Welsh households and businesses, and our world-class farming and agricultural sectors.



# SUPPORT OUR FARMERS

Labour's Family Farm Tax, and Labour and Plaid Cymru's inappropriately named Sustainable Farming Scheme, are undermining the viability of our agricultural industry, costing thousands of jobs and damaging our rural economy.

Welsh Conservatives have always backed our farmers and we always will. Without them there would be no food and no future. We will invest in our rural communities, support local produce and back our farmers.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- » Scrap Natural Resources Wales and replace it with an independent, fit-for-purpose regulator
- » Clean up our rivers and improve bathing water quality, and use modern technology to improve monitoring
- » Introduce a moratorium on industrial-scale solar and wind farms to protect the Welsh countryside
- » Adopt a 'bury cables first' approach to infrastructure in the Welsh countryside
- » Encourage developers of new commercial buildings and car parks to generate solar energy from roof space and canopies
- » Adopt a Wales-wide approach to domestic recycling in Wales to prevent confusion, ensure consistency and drive efficiencies from economies of scale
- » Ensure alignment between Wales and the rest of the UK on deposit return schemes to avoid confusion, unnecessary costs, and ensure consistency for retailers and manufacturers
- » Enhance air quality monitoring to tackle pollution, protect public health and prevent respiratory diseases
- » Increase penalties and improve enforcement for fly-tipping, dog fouling, graffiti and littering to ensure that those responsible pay for their actions
- » Establish a £20 million Wildlife Wales Fund to support conservation efforts across Wales

## PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM FLOODING

- » Establish a National Flood Agency to coordinate flood risk management and learn from flooding incidents with timely and independent inquiries
- » Establish Blue Belts in areas of high flood risk to prevent irresponsible development
- » Undertake an urgent risk-based assessment of flood risk and existing defences in Wales
- » Invest in flood defence improvements to reduce the number of homes and businesses at risk and enhance the resilience of the transport network



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- » Develop a Growth Strategy for Welsh Agriculture
- » Boost the farming budget by additional £100 million over the next Senedd term
- » Axe Labour and Plaid Cymru's Sustainable Farming Scheme and replace it with a new food security first scheme
- » Follow the science and adopt an evidence-led approach to tackling Bovine TB in livestock and wildlife
- » Scrap the Wales-wide Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and adopt a targeted catchment approach instead
- » End the farming by calendar approach to water regulations
- » Promote Welsh food and drink and honest labelling
- » Amend public procurement rules to support Welsh producers
- » Campaign for Labour's Family Farms Tax to be scrapped in full
- » Work with the UK Government to tackle tool theft and farm crime

# FIX OUR COMMUNITIES

The promise of devolution was to bring decision-making closer to the doorsteps of the people of Wales. But rather than empowering our regions, we have seen relentless centralisation, with powers and decision-making hoarded in Cardiff Bay.

Welsh Conservatives believe in real devolution. This means shifting the weight of power away from government offices and back into the hands of individuals, families and professionals who understand their communities best.

We will ensure a fair deal for every corner of the country, by forging partnerships with local authorities and the third sector. By fully leveraging these opportunities, we will unlock the economic potential of all our communities and get Wales working.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

- » Establish a new devolution framework in Wales by devolving powers down from Cardiff Bay
- » Allow residents to approve or veto excessive council tax rises via local referendums
- » Reform the local government funding formula to ensure fair funding across Wales
- » Provide local authorities with three-year indicative budgets to assist with planning ahead
- » Review the number of local authorities and councillors in Wales
- » Give town and community councils a greater say in the planning process
- » Introduce a Community Ownership Fund to save threatened assets such as libraries, pubs, leisure centres and green spaces, particularly those threatened with closure
- » Secure more banking hubs in Wales to serve communities where banks have closed

### KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

- » Improve community safety and security with a Safer Streets Fund to invest in measures such as improved street lighting, and new video monitoring systems
- » Uphold the rights and protect the safety of women and girls by requiring female-only toilets and changing rooms in all public buildings, female-only wards in Welsh hospitals and protecting female-only sports
- » Improve lighting in town centres and public spaces to foster a greater sense of security for women and girls

# A HOME FOR EVERYONE

**Wales is in the midst of a housing crisis.** Over the past 27 years, Labour and Plaid Cymru have failed to build enough new homes to keep up with demand, resulting in spiralling rents, unaffordable home ownership for younger people and prevented older people from downsizing.

Welsh Conservatives want Wales to be a home-owning democracy where everyone has a stake in their local community. Promoting home ownership and building more homes will help kickstart economic growth and get Wales working.

## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### PROMOTE HOME OWNERSHIP AND BUILD MORE HOMES

- » Scrap Land Transaction Tax on primary residences to promote mobility in the housing market
- » Restore the Right-to-Buy in Wales, reinvesting sale proceeds into more affordable housing and protecting homes from sale for 10 years
- » Extend and expand the Help-to-Buy scheme to all first-time buyers and widen the scheme to include empty properties in need of renovation
- » Work with the UK Government to give young people a £5,000 tax rebate in their first job, to help them save towards their first home
- » Aim to build 40,000 new homes by 2030
- » Adopt an infrastructure-first approach to new housing developments
- » Introduce incentives for local authorities to make timely planning decisions and impose penalties on developers who fail to deliver housing projects with existing planning permission
- » Review the operation of Rent Smart Wales

### RAISE HOUSING STANDARDS ACROSS WALES

- » Establish a Fire Safety Fund to support the costs of fire safety works and end the scourge of unsafe cladding
- » Explore the introduction of deposit passporting for social housing tenants
- » Implement a ban on new leasehold premises in Wales and move towards commonhold arrangements for new developments while taking action to address existing unfair leasehold arrangements
- » Tackle the shortage of accessible homes for disabled people by developing a streamlined adaptations system and introduce a statutory obligation for local authorities to set targets for wheelchair accessible housing

### TACKLE HOMELESSNESS

- » Work with stakeholders to develop a plan to eradicate rough sleeping in Wales
- » Bring an end to the use of hotels and caravans as emergency accommodation for families with children
- » Publish new guidance to address delays in assistance being provided to homeless people due to cross-border local connection disputes

# TACKLE POVERTY AND PROMOTE EQUALITY

**Under Labour and Plaid Cymru, the promise of a prosperous Wales has gone unfulfilled.** Instead, our nation remains caught in a cycle of inequality, standing as one of the most economically disadvantaged parts of the United Kingdom. Behind the statistics are real families, parents struggling to pay their bills and heat their homes, and children growing up without the basic security they deserve.

Compounding these economic hardships is a worrying rise in intolerance. Discrimination and hate crimes have cast a shadow over our communities, threatening the safety and dignity of minority groups and others. Welsh Conservatives will champion a Wales where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to our economy and community.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### TACKLE POVERTY TO GET WALES WORKING

- » Tackle poverty by cutting tax, creating jobs and growing the Welsh economy to give more families the economic security of a decent income
- » Reform Flying Start to ensure that it is targeted at families who need it, not postcodes
- » Develop a Tackling Poverty Action Plan to include specific strategies to address child poverty and fuel poverty to drive accountability and progress
- » Work with stakeholders to develop a Gambling Action Plan to tackle problem gambling in Wales
- » Implement a UK Shared Prosperity Fund that tackles inequality and deprivation, and levels up across the whole of Wales

### PROMOTE INCLUSION

- » Incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into Welsh law
- » Support disabled people to live independently by developing a streamlined home adaptations system and increasing the use of direct payments
- » Embrace the Social Model of Disability and the right to Independent Living, providing disabled people voice, choice, control and independence in their lives
- » Introduce an Autism and Learning Disability Bill for Wales to provide Autistic people with a clear pathway to diagnosis and a statutory right to receive timely services that meet their needs

### TACKLE DISCRIMINATION

- » Adopt a zero-tolerance culture across Welsh Government to prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion or disability
- » Ensure that Welsh Government-funded employment opportunities and appointments are offered on merit to the best candidates, based on their ability, character, and competence, not their background
- » Increase funding for those working to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse

### SUPPORT ACTION TO STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

- » Scrap Labour and Plaid Cymru's Nation of Sanctuary policy
- » Work with the UK Government to stop illegal immigration and support withdrawal from the ECHR

# SUPPORT OUR ARMED FORCES

Welsh Conservatives are proud supporters of our armed forces and we want Wales to be the most veteran-friendly nation in the world.

We honour the fallen and value the contribution of our armed forces, cadets and veterans. We want a Wales that engenders respect for them and their families, remembers their sacrifice and delivers on the Armed Forces Covenant.

A Welsh Conservative Government will deliver improvements for our armed forces family and prioritise economic growth and employment opportunities in the defence industry.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- » Work with the Veterans' Commissioner for Wales to ensure that all devolved public services meet their obligations under the Armed Forces Covenant
- » Designate a Minister with responsibility for the Armed Forces community in Wales
- » End veteran homelessness by requiring all Welsh local authorities and social landlords to give homeless veterans a top priority when allocating housing
- » Reward service personnel and veterans for their contribution to Wales by providing:
  - Free bus travel
  - Free access to local authority leisure centres
  - Priority access to NHS treatment for service-related illnesses or injuries
  - Priority access to home adaptations via Disabled Facilities Grants

## HONOUR OUR HEROES AND UPHOLD THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

- » Ensure that there are Armed Forces Liaison Officers in all regions of Wales
- » Ensure that all Welsh Health Boards have a designated Armed Forces Lead Officer and permanent peer mentors
- » Promote engagement in the Armed Forces Friendly Schools programme to support service children in Wales
- » Introduce a Service Pupil Premium to support the children of military personnel
- » Promote the establishment of new school cadet groups and Cadet Vocational Qualifications

## PROMOTE AND PROTECT WELSH MILITARY HERITAGE

- » Establish a National Military Museum for Wales
- » Maintain a 'Cymru'n Cofio - Wales Remembers' website to promote commemoration of historic Welsh military milestones and anniversaries
- » Honour the memory of the fallen in Wales by placing a duty on Welsh local authorities to ensure that war memorials are maintained
- » Work with the UK Government to increase the penalties for those who damage or desecrate war memorials

# SUPPORT OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES



Welsh Conservatives value the enormous contribution of faith communities to Wales. We recognise the role played by Christianity and other faiths in shaping and serving our nation and believe that our spiritual heritage should be celebrated and promoted.

## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- » Improve Welsh Government engagement with faith communities by:
  - Establishing an annual Faith Communities Conference
  - Consulting with faith communities when developing legislation and policy that affects them
  - Increasing the frequency of meetings of the Faith Communities Forum
- » Develop and promote opportunities for faith related tourism with strategies for sacred sites, historic chapels, churches, other places of worship and pilgrim routes
- » Establish a Faith Community Covenant Scheme for public bodies to recognise the positive contribution of faith groups to Wales and improve engagement with them
- » Review the role of Religious Education within the national curriculum
- » Continue to fund chaplaincy services in the Welsh NHS
- » Hold national events to remember the Holocaust and other acts of genocide
- » Promote the sustainability of places of worship by providing grants to reduce their running cost
- » Work with faith communities and other stakeholders to address anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred and other hate crime
- » Work with the UK Government to tackle extremism

# SUPPORT OUR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND SPORT

Wales has an incredibly rich cultural heritage and a world class literary and sporting tradition, but successive Welsh Governments have not done enough to celebrate our cultural and sporting assets.

A Welsh Conservative Government will strengthen and promote our national institutions, widen access to the arts and champion sporting opportunities and excellence.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### PROMOTE WELSH ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- » Work with the UK Government to designate St David's Day as a national holiday in Wales
- » Exempt grassroots arts and music venues, and small cinemas and theatres from business rates
- » Retain free entry into Wales' National Museums
- » Provide discounts for families and local people visiting CADW sites
- » Increase core funding for the National Library for Wales and establish a permanent exhibition from its collection on the Senedd estate
- » Provide £100,000 of annual match-funding to the National Zoo of Wales
- » Promote digital access to the National Archives in Wales
- » Establish a right for communities in Wales to bid for ownership of heritage assets and libraries threatened with closure
- » Promote Wales as a TV and film location

### UNLEASH WALES' SPORTING POTENTIAL

- » Market Wales as a venue for world-class sporting events
- » Establish a network of Welsh Sports Ambassadors to inspire participation in sports and close gaps in participation
- » Protect school playing fields and sports facilities from closure and sale
- » Deliver an Olympic sized swimming pool in North Wales
- » Work with Swim Wales to teach all Welsh children to swim by the end of their primary school education
- » Work with the UK Government to ensure that Six-Nations Rugby Internationals continue to be broadcast live on free to view television

# PROTECTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Welsh Conservatives hold the Welsh language at the very heart of our national identity and remain its proud, unwavering supporters. We believe that Cymraeg belongs to everyone in Wales and our vision is for a Wales where the language is a living, breathing part of every community.

We will champion the continued expansion of Welsh-medium education, giving young people the opportunity to become confident and fluent in Welsh and break down the barriers facing adult learners.

We are committed to building a vibrant, bilingual nation where every person feels empowered to speak, learn and share the Welsh language every day.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

- » Maintain a target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050
- » Create an 'Access to Welsh' Fund to help people to access opportunities to develop their language skills, establishing the right for everyone, of every age, to learn Welsh for free
- » Develop and implement a 'Welsh Language for All Charter'
- » Establish a Welsh language Digital Initiative to promote learning Welsh, Welsh language broadcasting and online services in Welsh
- » Ensure that the impact on the Welsh language is considered as part of the planning process for all significant developments in Wales
- » Increase the number of newly-trained teachers who can speak Welsh
- » Ensure the continued success of the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- » Develop a network of Welsh Language Business Champions
- » Increase the Welsh Language Commissioner's accountability by making the appointment of the Commissioner a matter for the Senedd, not the Welsh Government
- » Work to develop joint scrutiny and accountability arrangements between the UK Parliament and the Senedd for Welsh language broadcasters in Wales
- » Continue to support the operational and editorial independence of S4C

# GET OUR DEMOCRACY WORKING

Labour and Plaid Cymru have undermined the devolution settlement by pushing for more and more powers for the Welsh Parliament while failing to use existing powers effectively. The establishment of an international relations department and a commission on justice are examples of a Welsh Government that is greedy for powers, playing politics, and crossing the boundaries of the constitutional settlement.

As proud unionists, Welsh Conservatives believe in a strong Wales in a strong United Kingdom. A Welsh Conservative Government will respect the devolution settlement, strengthen our democracy and seek to work with the UK Government to deliver for people across the country.



## A WELSH CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL:

### CUT THE COST OF POLITICS AND THE CIVIL SERVICE

- » Reverse the increase in the number of Senedd Members from 96 to 60, saving £20m per year
- » Cap the number of Welsh Ministers at 12, cut ministerial pay by 10% and freeze it for four years
- » Reduce the size of the Welsh Government civil service
- » Freeze Welsh Government employee salaries of over £100,000 for four years
- » Scrap arbitrary work from home targets for Welsh Government staff

### RESPECT THE DEVOLUTION SETTLEMENT AND PROTECT THE UNITED KINGDOM

- » Rule out extending the Senedd's powers and further referendums on the constitutional settlement, including the separation of Wales from the rest of the United Kingdom
- » Reject Labour and Plaid Cymru's efforts to devolve policing, justice and elements of welfare
- » Stop spending on non-devolved matters, such as justice, international affairs, overseas aid and immigration and rule out a Welsh Government funded Universal Basic Income
- » Work with the UK Government to promote the benefits of the United Kingdom to the people of Wales