



### ***Key political party manifesto pledges relevant to social enterprise***

The extracts from each party manifesto below focus on issues of relevance to social enterprises, including funding and support, the wellbeing economy, fair work, community wealth building, community ownership, land reform and pledges regarding the variety of social enterprise business models. The list is not exhaustive and only includes the main, existing parties in The Scottish Parliament. We recommend reading the key points of each manifesto that can be found using the web links below and online.

---

#### **Specific mention of social enterprise?**

<a href="#"><u>Scottish Greens</u></a>	<b>Yes</b>
<a href="#"><u>Scottish Labour</u></a>	<b>Yes</b>
<a href="#"><u>Scottish Conservatives</u></a>	<b>No</b>
<a href="#"><u>Scottish Liberal Democrats</u></a>	<b>No</b>
<a href="#"><u>Scottish National Party</u></a>	<b>Yes</b>

---

#### **Scottish Greens:**

“Encourage community ownership through business rate reductions for **social enterprises** and employee-owned businesses.”

“Increase direct support for horticulture and market gardening businesses, including community and **social enterprises**.”

“Supporting good business - The Scottish Greens will ensure businesses are supported and incentivised to behave in an environmentally-sound and socially-just way.”

“We will: Establish a Good Business Council to advise the Scottish Government on the delivery of a green economic recovery. Align public procurement, enterprise agencies and other business support and grant schemes, including Business Gateway services, behind supporting good business. Encourage greater diversity and representation of workers on company boards, and make worker or union representation mandatory for businesses with a turnover of £5m or more. Require businesses with a turnover of £5m or more to publish an environmental, social and corporate report alongside their annual financial reports.”

“The Scottish Greens believe that the cultural sector and creative industries can be the backbone of a wellbeing economy, as we recover from the pandemic and build towards a zero carbon future.”

“Building and harnessing community wealth - We will...put community organising and wealth building at the heart of our plans for a green recovery.”

“Increase support for community ownership. We will continue to support Community Land Scotland to scale-up support for communities looking to own or manage local assets.”

“Support community ownership by encouraging the transfer of ownership from Forestry and Land Scotland and Local Authorities to communities via a simplified Community Asset Transfer Scheme.”

“Revive local media - Establish an interest-free loan fund to assist the buyout of local titles by their workforce or community on a cooperative or Community Interest Company model.”

“Develop a match-funding scheme to help small businesses and charities advertise in their local media.”

“Support housing co-operatives through providing financing options and targeted relief from Land and Buildings Transaction Tax.”

“Establish local crofter and producer food co-ops to sell direct to the public and the hospitality and tourist trade.”

“Develop the role of housing associations so they can act as anchor institutions for their local communities, supporting initiatives like community finance, community gardening, crèches, laundries, toy libraries and tool sharing.”

“We will...ensure multi-year funding for third sector partners.”

“Bring forward a Land Reform Act to tackle monopolies, promote fairer management of land and regulate the sale of land. Commission a review of taxation and subsidies relating to land ownership. Introduce restrictions on overseas ownership of land. Give Scotland’s Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement a statutory footing, requiring large landowners - private, public and third sector - to act responsibly. Increase the Scottish Land Fund.”

“Review take-up of existing Community Rights to Buy and the Community Asset Transfer scheme to ensure they are fit for purpose. Review the valuation of land so communities are not forced to pay market rates for land to already wealthy landowners. Increase support and reduce costs for communities wishing to take charge of land through existing community empowerment legislation.”

### **Scottish Labour:**

“We will work with local authorities to promote alternative business models including cooperatives, **social enterprises**, and in-house provision.”

“We will establish a Workers Ownership Fund with the aim of doubling the number of cooperatives and supporting alternative business models, including **social enterprises**.”

“Scotland needs bold and urgent action to build a wellbeing economy. Economic growth must be fuelled by more than high employment and longer working hours. A prosperous wellbeing economy is one that provides financial security for families, builds opportunities for our young people, supports innovation, creates jobs and grows vibrant businesses and **social enterprises**.”

“We will establish an Entrepreneur Unit and appoint a Minister for Entrepreneurship to ensure entrepreneurship is promoted in the public, private and voluntary sectors.”

“Supporting the voluntary sector - Scottish Labour recognises the importance of a strong voluntary sector in our plans to decentralise powers and democratise the economy.”

“...From charities to **social enterprises**, cooperatives, community interest companies, development trusts, social housing providers, voluntary groups and more, they empower excluded people, regenerate communities and drive our economy.”

“We will support a continued partnership approach between government, charities, **social enterprises** and other sectors, modernise charity law, strengthen governance, and provide longer-term financing for projects delivered by the voluntary sector.”

“Scottish Labour will encourage new forms of banking in line with our Community Wealth Building proposals. This includes support for the development of credit unions, including smaller local credit unions that maintain the mutual ethos.”

“We will require universities and colleges to act as anchor institutions in our Community Wealth Building plans, including raising employment standards.”

“Scottish Labour will support local communities and reinforce their strengths through Community Wealth Building programmes, which are currently being put into practice by Scottish Labour councils.”

“We would use the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) to introduce a Worker’s Ownership Fund to enhance support for cooperative and employee-owned businesses in the low-carbon economy.”

“We will have a renewed focus on Co-operative Development Scotland.”

“Scottish Labour will support genuinely community and cooperatively owned local renewable energy projects such as the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative.”

“We support building 200,000 zero carbon social homes over ten years, with parity of grant funding between councils, cooperatives and housing associations.”

“Action on social care - Public service delivery will be increased, and a range of other providers, including cooperatives, will be available operating within the new framework.”

“We will place rent controls on student accommodation, encouraging new cooperative models through a student accommodation strategy.”

“Credit unions can also offer better alternatives to high-cost credit so we will develop the fund for helping their growth and innovation, improving online accessibility and capacity for swift loan decisions.”

“...over the next decade, with the aim of building 200,000 social homes...We will provide parity of grant funding between councils and housing associations. Councils and housing associations should also consider purchasing existing housing to help speed up the growth in the supply of social housing.”

“Land prices lie at the centre of the housing crisis. We believe the law should be reformed to allow for the acquisition of land for social housing at existing use value and use development gain to finance essential infrastructure.”

“We will legislate to ensure that no one individual can acquire large swathes of Scotland’s land and prevent land ownership via offshore tax-havens.”

### **Scottish Conservatives:**

“We will support housing associations and consider new models for meeting Scotland’s social housing needs. There are 685 housing associations across the UK but only 11 of these are in Scotland. We would fund a pilot programme for cooperative housing in Scotland.”

“We would also support the operation and formation of co-operative enterprises and mutual banking as communities recover from the pandemic.”

“To deliver growth and create jobs in every part of our country, we would bring forward an Enterprise Bill establishing an economic development agency in each region of Scotland.”

“Over the long-term we will ensure that there is sufficient accommodation across Scotland with the biggest social housing building programme since devolution.”

“...we would deliver 60,000 new affordable homes, with two thirds of these being new social housing.”

“To support voluntary sector organisations to better deliver services, we will ensure that those in receipt of national funding receive multi-year settlements. Our new fiscal framework will enable councils to do the same for those in receipt of local funding.”

“We will establish a Circular Economy Awards Scheme to recognise innovation in reuse and waste reduction.”

### **Scottish Liberal Democrats:**

“Expand the Scottish Land Fund to help further community ownership across Scotland, empowering sustainable communities to repopulate.”

“Offer direct support from government agencies to enable more employee, cooperative and community ownership of businesses particularly whenever the government sells up its shares in companies.”

“Establish a right for communities to protect threatened community facilities through different ownership or the use of shared premises as hubs. Community groups or cooperatives should be given a fair chance to purchase or acquire these assets.”

“Set a target for all new social housing, including affordable homes, to be built to Passivhaus standards by 2025...”

“Prioritise land acquisition for communities by developing a localised service to assist self-builders and communities in securing land to meet housing demand, coordinating with local authorities, landowners and housing associations.”

“Extend and expand the Rural Housing Fund and the Islands Housing Fund, and reduce the barriers for communities to access them. Give the Scottish Land Commission the power to legally enforce the voluntary Rights and Responsibilities Protocols that govern the relationship between landowners and communities, like the mandatory codes of practice overseen by the Tenant Farming Commissioner.”

### **Scottish National Party:**

“Valuing the Third Sector and **Social Enterprise** - We know that to enable our voluntary sector to continue its vital work it needs reliable funding. We will work towards multi-year funding for the sector to ensure a more secure and sustainable future. Our Community

and Third Sector Recovery Programme is backed by £50 million and awards will be completed by this summer. A further £13.5 million will support the third sector to recover and transition from the pandemic. **Social Enterprises** are vital in building a wellbeing economy. We will back a new three year **Social Enterprise** Action Plan with £5 million.”

“We are committed to increasing the number of employee owned businesses in Scotland to 500 by 2030 - a 500% increase on current numbers. We will create a mechanism for greater financial provision to support more employee buyouts.”

“...we will establish a £10 million fund to allow companies to pilot and explore the benefits of a four day working week.”

“Create a Women’s Business Centre, backed by £50 million of investment, to help create, grow and develop the next generation of women led businesses.”

“Create a new, £20 million Rural Entrepreneur Fund – providing grants of up to £10,000 to support the relocation or creation of 2,000 new businesses.”

“Over the next five years we will invest £100 million in our Green Jobs fund, investing alongside businesses and organisations to support new and increased opportunities for green job creation across Scotland.”

“Wellbeing Economy Government Network...we will continue to build an international network of Wellbeing Economy Governments, with dedicated resources within the Scottish Government, to support its work and expansion to new countries. We will appoint a Wellbeing Economy Ambassador to work across countries to promote this work and we will bring countries together around COP26 to discuss how focusing on the wellbeing of a country can help meet net zero.”

“We will build on our work to create a wellbeing economy, by developing measures of economic performance that take proper account of the contribution and cost of formal and informal care.”

“Keeping Power Local - To further shift the balance of power to communities, we will bring forward a Community Wealth Building Act to redirect wealth, control and benefits to local economies. The Act will require local authorities and public bodies to spend in their local communities through increased local procurement, greater use of small businesses and ensuring taxpayers money is reinvested as far as possible in their local communities. We will review the Community Empowerment Act and consult on ways in which it could be expanded to put more power in the hands of people and communities

and increase the amount of local funding allocated by communities themselves through participatory budgeting.”

“We will publish a Retail Strategy to help the sector in Scotland change, innovate and thrive, and become an exemplar in inclusive growth, supporting a robust, local supply chain...”

“We will implement our proposal for Scottish Green Ports, making public sector support conditional on businesses complying with our Fair Work First agenda - paying the Real Living Wage and implementing the Scottish Business Pledge – and on delivering on concrete plans to reduce carbon emissions.”

“Trade, investment and exports - How we trade is as important as what we trade. Scotland’s Vision for Trade and its core principles of inclusive growth, wellbeing, sustainability, net zero and good governance will guide how we form and build trading relationships.”

“Backing Community Ownership - We will bring forward a new Land Reform Bill. It will ensure that the public interest is considered on any particularly large scale land ownership and introduce a pre-emption in favour of community buy-out where title to land is transferred. The Scottish Land Fund helps communities take ownership of the land and buildings that matter to them. We will double the fund, increasing it to £20 million per year by the end of the parliament...A £50 million Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme will ensure land is utilised for maximum environmental and community benefit with a particular focus in deprived areas...”

“With the full powers of independence we would explore a legal duty on businesses to consider a wider range of economic and environmental outcomes - ensuring Scotland’s businesses focus on long term sustainable growth.”

**END**

Ref: DT210430