

Getting more people into well-paid and rewarding work

The SNP will use its influence at Westminster to deliver key economic advantages for Scotland.

Our proposals include:

- An increase in the minimum wage to £8.70 by 2020.
- Easier access to finance for growing Scottish companies through the Scottish Business Development Bank
- A boost for Scotland's tourism and hospitality sectors with plans for a reduction in Air Passenger Duty
- More spending in local economies with an increased minimum wage and lower National Insurance costs for companies to help create jobs
- A £100 million investment in jobs in the creative sector with BBC Scotland receiving a fairer share of the licence fee.
- Increased investment in infrastructure as part of our alternative to the failed UK austerity agenda

We believe that public sector organisations should be able to bid to operate rail services, as allowed in EU law but currently prevented by UK legislation. This would enable us to ensure the delivery of rail services in Scotland that deliver maximum economic and social benefit.

A government that works for all the country

One of the greatest indictments of the current Westminster system is that it works best for one part of society and one part of the country. Social and

geographic imbalances are increasing at a worrying rate, with an increasing imbalance between London, and the south-east, and the rest of the UK.

SNP MPs will seek to rebalance the UK for the benefit of people in the north and west of these isles.

We believe that investment in so-called "national" projects in London, should be subject to normal consequential funding for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and that the North of England, in particular, should see a significant increase in infrastructure expenditure. Alongside the development of High Speed Rail from London to the Midlands, we will seek a commitment to deliver High Speed Rail between Glasgow, Edinburgh and the north of England as the first stage of a link connecting Scotland and the north of England to London. High Speed Rail should be constructed both from the north down and from the south up.

We will support Scotland's city authorities with proposals for new City Deals – like the one already agreed with Glasgow and Clyde Valley – and will seek the creation of a £300 million Scottish Cities Fund, and similar Northern Cities and Welsh Cities funds, to ensure adequate resources are available to support the growth of major urban centres in the north and west of the UK. While a strong London is good for the UK, also having a strong Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, Cardiff, Newcastle and Leeds is even better.

The SNP will also aim to right a long-term economic injustice, by ensuring that a share of future oil and gas and renewable energy revenues are used to create a Sovereign Wealth Fund. The current UK government has