


# FOREWORD

A portrait of Natalie Bennett, Green Party Leader, smiling. She has short blonde hair and is wearing a dark green patterned blazer over a green and yellow patterned scarf. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with some lights.

Britain has the wealth and resources to do great things. We can build an economy that gives everyone their fair share of the world's sixth-richest economy. We can create a humane, caring society that supports everyone's needs. And we can be a world leader in tackling the threat of climate change.

Sadly, our current politics – dominated by a small social group and the power of vested interests – are failing to realise this potential.

Our manifesto is a bold plan to create a more equal, more democratic society while doing our part to heal the planet, which has been severely damaged by the effects of an unstable, unsustainable economy.

The austerity experiment has failed, as it did in the 1930s. Most people have seen their living standards fall, while the top one percent have increased their wealth. Millions of households are living in poverty, in fear of want.

Our NHS is being handed over to the private sector, resulting in a more expensive and inferior service, while highly skilled staff are underpaid and treated without proper respect.

Governments of all colours – except Green – are failing to get to grips with climate change – the greatest challenge of our time.

Yet none of this is inevitable – there is a real alternative.

We do not apologise for being bold, ambitious or having a long-term vision for our country. We certainly cannot continue as a nation on our current path.

We believe in restoring and extending our public services to create good jobs and meet the needs of a diverse population.

We believe in tackling climate change – taking serious action to limit our emissions at home and fighting for a fair global deal that secures humanity's shared future.

We believe that we can build a society that works for the common good – and that those with the broadest shoulders really should pay their fair share towards it.

Together, we can do this. We must do this.

**NATALIE BENNETT, GREEN PARTY LEADER**