





## Thematic summary of election pledges

Headlines for our sector	<b>Conservative</b> 	<b>Labour</b> 	<b>Liberal Democrats</b> 	<b>Green</b> 
<p><b>Skills</b></p> <p>There are a range of approaches to change the way funds from the Apprenticeship Levy can be used – from a Climate Apprenticeship Programme under Labour to a wider ‘Skills and Training Levy’, feeding into a Social Mobility Fund, under the Liberal Democrats.</p> <p>The FE sector has received specific pledges of additional support from all of the main parties.</p>	<p>Pledge to look at how working of the Apprenticeship Levy can be improved, alongside an ambition to train up ‘hundreds of thousands’ more highly skilled apprentices</p> <p>This will include a requirement for significant numbers of new UK apprentices for all large scale, new infrastructure projects</p> <p>“A dramatic rebooting of our training system”</p>	<p>Facilitate expenditure of Levy funds by allowing them to be used for a wider range of accredited training</p> <p>Guidelines will be set by the IfATE and wider economic priorities</p> <p>Climate Apprenticeship Programme (‘the STEM of the future’) – employers expected to allocate 25% of the funds in their Apprenticeship Levy accounts to train Climate Apprentices</p>	<p>Expand Apprenticeship Levy into a wider ‘Skills and Training Levy’</p> <p>25% of Levy funds to go into a Social Mobility Fund, targeted at the areas with the greatest skills needs</p> <p>Every adult in England to receive a ‘Skills Wallet’ worth £10,000, into which the government would put £4,000 at age 25, £3,000 at age 40 and £3,000 at age 55.</p>	<p>Invest £2 bn per year in training and skills (incl. new apprenticeships)</p> <p>Give local authorities the power to direct the newly created training and skills programmes</p> <p>Revive the FE sector to provide a wider choice of academic and vocational learning</p> <p>Raise the funding rate for 16-17 year olds, followed by an annual rise in line with inflation</p>

<p>There is also widespread acknowledgement of the important role apprenticeships must play.</p>	<p>Creation of a new National Skills Fund worth £3 bn over the next Parliament to provide match funding for training for individuals and SMEs (a portion to be reserved for further strategic skills investment)</p> <p>£2 bn for FE college upgrades</p> <p>20 Institutes of Technology, connecting education to business and industry</p>	<p>It would be possible to spend funds directly or allocate them to a ring-fenced Climate Apprenticeship Fund.</p> <p>Alignment of post-16 funding rates</p> <p>Online matching service to help levy-paying businesses find smaller businesses to transfer their funds to</p> <p>Free lifelong entitlement to training up to Level 3 and six years' training at Levels 4-6</p> <p>Abolition of HE tuition fees and reintroduction of EMA and maintenance grants for disadvantaged learners</p>	<p>Earners and employers would have the option to make their own contributions into the Skills Wallet as well.</p> <p>Expansion of high-quality apprenticeships backed up by National Colleges as centres of expertise for key sectors, such as renewable energy.</p> <p>Development of a national Skills Strategy for key sectors</p> <p>Introduce a 'Training up Britain' programme to make the most of migrants' skills</p> <p>Invest an extra £1 bn in FE</p>	<p>Fully fund every HE student – and write off the debt of existing students</p>
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<b>Sector</b>	'Net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050	Green New Deal to achieve majority of necessary emissions reductions by 2030	Phase out emissions from remaining 'hard-to-treat' sectors by 2045 (with an emergency emissions reduction programme to start immediately)	Reduce the UK's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030
<p>The parties differ on the goals they plan to set for achieving 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions – the Conservatives will work to 2050, while Labour aims to achieve 'the majority' by 2030.</p> <p>Renewable and low carbon technologies for generation of heat and power feature prominently across all manifestos, alongside support for EVs and development of charging infrastructure.</p> <p>The Green Party has highlighted the need for significantly increased electricity grid capacity to cope with increased demand, following</p>	<p>Budget to prioritise EV infrastructure, alongside stricter laws on air quality</p> <p>An additional £100 bn to be invested in infrastructure, incl. £4 bn new funding for flood defences</p> <p>New independent Office for Environmental Protection</p> <p>£1 bn to be invested in a fast-charging network for electric vehicles – consultation expected as soon as possible on phasing out of new petrol and diesel vehicles.</p>	<p>A National Transformation Fund of £400 billion (and a Local Transformation Fund in each English region), alongside revised Treasury investment rules, to support this transition</p> <p>Deliver 90% of electricity and 50% heat from renewable and low carbon sources by 2030</p> <p>Investment in EV infrastructure and EV community car clubs</p> <p>Invest in district heat networks and decentralised renewable heat technologies</p>	<p>Launch an emergency programme to insulate all Britain's homes by 2030</p> <p>Invest in renewable power – 80% UK electricity from renewables by 2030</p> <p>All new cars to be electric by 2030 – cut VAT on EVs to 5% and pass a Clean Air Act, based on WHO guidelines</p> <p>Establish an independent Office of</p>	<p>End sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030</p> <p>Encourage private sector to deliver EV charging infrastructure</p> <p>Wind to provide around 70% of the UK's electricity by 2030</p> <p>A 'Green New Deal' tailored to individual sectors, including Energy; Transport and Housing</p> <p>The Energy Green New Deal will include replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy</p>

<p>reduced fossil fuel consumption.</p>	<p>Retention of cap on default energy tariffs and introduction of new measures to lower bills</p> <p>Enhanced powers for Competition and Markets Authority to tackle consumer rip-offs and bad business practices</p>	<p>Expand distributed and community energy schemes</p>	<p>Environmental Protection</p> <p>Implement the UK's G7 pledge to end fossil fuel subsidies by 2025 (and provide Just Transition funding for areas negatively impacted)</p> <p>Develop Zero Carbon Heat Strategy, incl. reform of RHI</p> <p>Introduce statutory waste recycling target of 70% in England and extend separate food waste collections to at least 90% of homes by 2024</p> <p>£130 billion investment in infrastructure, including energy networks</p>	<p>For housing, delivery of major heating upgrades for one million homes per year and roll out of small-scale renewable technologies (replace gas fired boilers with renewable alternatives)</p> <p>Combined investment of over £100 bn per year under auspices of Green New Deal</p> <p>A Carbon Tax on all fossil fuel imports and domestic abstraction</p> <p>Double the capacity of the electricity grid and invest in more interconnection with Europe to cater for increased electricity demand as UK transitions away from fossil fuels</p>
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<p><b><u>Employment</u></b></p> <p>Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Green Party have all proposed initiatives to make larger companies more transparent and enhance employee engagement.</p> <p>Labour has proposed a reduced working week to 32 hours (with no reduction in pay) while</p>	<p>Student visa to help universities attract talented young people and allow those on the visa to stay and apply for work in the UK after they graduate</p>	<p>Energy sector workers will be supported through the transition to public ownership and guarantee them retraining and a new, unionised job on equivalent terms and conditions</p> <p>Requirement for large companies to set up Inclusive Ownership Funds (IOFs) to enable employee ownership</p>	<p>Introduction of new two-year visa for students to work in the UK after their graduation</p> <p>Reform of immigration laws – including enabling industry bodies to sponsor work visas</p> <p>Introduce requirement for large companies to have statement of corporate purpose, reporting formally on</p>	<p>The Green New Deal will deliver a Universal Basic Income (UBI), a weekly payment for everyone, replacing the current benefits system</p> <p>Gig economy workers will receive the same benefits, such as pension and sick pay, as permanent employees</p>

<p>the Green Party has pledged a universal basic income (UBI).</p>		<p>and contribution to funding Climate Apprenticeships</p> <p>Reduction of average full-time weekly working hours to 32 across the economy, with no loss of pay (funded by productivity gains)</p>	<p>employee welfare; community benefit and social and environmental impact.</p>	<p>Require all large and medium sized companies to carry out an equal pay audit, in addition to reviewing recruitment and retention practices</p>
<p><b><u>Ownership</u></b></p> <p>Labour and the Green Party have pledged to take energy, water and other nationally strategic infrastructure back into public ownership.</p>	<p>No stated plans to change ownership model.</p>	<p>Nationally strategic infrastructure, including water and energy networks, to be taken back into public ownership</p> <p>New UK National Energy Agency will own and maintain the national grid infrastructure and oversee delivery of decarbonisation targets</p>	<p>No stated plans to change ownership model.</p>	<p><i>“We pay for public services, we use them, we own them. It’s time they properly belonged to all of us. From our (...) energy grid, water, railways and schools, the Green Party will campaign for public services that are run by the people for the people.”</i></p>




		<p>14 new Regional Energy Agencies to replace existing DNOs</p> <p>Supply arms of 'big six' to be brought back into public ownership</p>		
<p><b><u>Devolution and localism</u></b></p> <p>There is a clear trend towards increased localism across the board</p>	<p>Ensure that £500 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is used to give disadvantaged people the skills they need</p> <p>A transformational sector deal for the oil and gas sector during transition to Net Zero economy (300,000 people employed in the sector, of whom 4 in 10 work in Scotland)</p>	<p>A strategy to safeguard the people, jobs and skills that depend on the offshore oil and gas industry (particular impact on Scotland)</p>	<p>Enact legislation to empower groups of authorities to come together to establish devolved governance</p>	<p>Give fuller voice to regional and national identities, holding a referendum on a Cornish Assembly and increasing the powers of the current National Assembly for Wales.</p>



## Manifestos from parties in the Devolved Nations

Scottish and Welsh Labour and Conservative pledges on devolved issues align closely with those of the English parties, with some points of differentiation that are specific to each of the devolved nations. The respective national parties also have their own priorities. An overview of key skills-related points from each manifesto has been provided below.

Party	Points to note
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with a UK Labour government to ensure that the jobs created in Wales are well-paid, unionised jobs</li> <li>• Build on the foundations of the Economic Action Plan to support people with the skills they need to access these jobs of the future</li> <li>• Support for alternative approach to apprenticeships in Wales</li> <li>• Development of a new strategic authority to oversee skills, funding for research and the higher and further education sectors in Wales</li> <li>• Build on the work of the Hazelkorn review which recommended establishing a single regulatory, oversight and co-ordinating authority for the post-compulsory education sector</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a STEM focused Institute of Technology in North Wales which connects high quality teaching to business and industry</li> <li>• “Take back control of the money that was being channelled via Wales’ Structural Funds” (the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is expected to replace lost Structural Funds)</li> <li>• Ensure that Welsh workers have the skills they need to flourish – creation of an adult learning allowance to use on a degree, technical training, or specific courses</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new network of specialist National Colleges of Vocational Education for 14+ and post compulsory education</li> <li>• A Welsh Migration Advisory Service to ensure a system that meets Wales' specific skills needs</li> <li>• A Green New Deal – becoming 100% self sufficient in renewable electricity by 2035</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on setting out 'a positive case' for remaining as part of the UK</li> <li>• Scottish Labour has led the Scottish Parliament to adopt bolder targets and greater urgency in its implementation plans to address climate change</li> <li>• UK Labour's Green New Deal aims to achieve the substantial majority of emissions reductions by 2030 - Scottish hydro, Scottish wind, and Scottish wave power is essential to achieving this and 60% of the UK's onshore wind capacity is in Scotland</li> <li>• A new National Plan for Adult Learning with national frameworks and local delivery – incl. workforce learning building in initiatives such as Scottish Union Learning, as well as requiring employers to raise educational standards</li> <li>• Scotland's Further Education (FE) colleges are facing a funding crisis – SL would ensure that they are properly resourced and that there is parity of esteem with HE institutions</li> <li>• Ensure apprenticeships are tied closely to the labour market and a proper manufacturing strategy</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Against a second independence referendum in Scotland</li> <li>• UK Shared Prosperity Fund to replace lost EU Structural Funds across the UK and to replace the EU programme with one better tailored to the Scottish economy</li> <li>• Rebalance the system so that every child is in education, an apprenticeship or in-work training up to age 18</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaigning for a second independence referendum in Scotland</li> <li>• Support Scotland’s people to gain the skills they need to share the rewards of investment in decarbonisation through a Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan</li> <li>• No mention of apprenticeships</li> <li>• A Green Energy Deal to ensure green energy schemes get the long-term certainty needed to support investment – and the support they need from the UK Government</li> <li>• Ring-fencing of oil and gas receipts, creating a Net Zero Fund, to help pay for the energy transition through investment in areas such as renewable energy, electric vehicles and carbon capture utilisation and storage</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of complementary and coordinated industrial strategies across all UK nations</li> <li>• Abolish and replace the Apprenticeship Levy – it should be replaced by a private sector focused levy co-designed between employers and government with any resources it raises ringfenced for skills</li> <li>• A UK-wide enterprise strategy to harness the skills and experience in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, engineering and technology to provide future leadership and direction</li> <li>• In terms of immigration policy, the UK should have not only have a national ‘skills gap list’ but supplementary lists for the ‘constituent parts of the United Kingdom’</li> </ul>