

# Manifesto Summary

Conservative Party

25/11/2019



This document is a summary of manifesto pledges divided into London First's four strands of focus – Connectivity, People, Place and Competitiveness – as well as sections on Brexit and devolution

## Brexit

- Priority is to get Brexit done. If a majority is elected, the Conservatives will put the deal through Parliament before Christmas and the UK will leave the EU in January
- The deal takes the UK out of the customs union, the single market and ends the role of the European Court of Justice in the UK
- A trade deal will be negotiated in the next year, with a commitment not to extend the transition period beyond December 2020

## Regional/Devolution

- **Give city regions the funding** to upgrade their bus, tram and train services “to make them as good as London’s”
- Create a UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will be used to tackle inequality and deprivation across the entire four nations of the union. This will replace the EU Structural Funds and will have a minimum match the size of those funds in each nation
- **An English Devolution White Paper will be published next year**, with the ambition of “full devolution across England”, building on the successful devolution of powers to city region mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and others

## Connectivity

- Support clean transport to ensure clean air, as well as setting strict new laws on air quality; consult on the earliest date at which the phasing out of the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars can take place
- Improvement and investment in bus networks in coastal towns
- **Invest in the Midlands Rail Hub, Northern Powerhouse Rail** and invest in improving train lines to the South West and East Anglia
- Extend contactless pay-as-you go ticketing to almost 200 more stations in the South East
- **£100bn additional infrastructure spending**, including £4bn for flood defences, £28.8bn in strategic and local roads, and £1bn in a fast charging network for electric vehicles
- **Consider the findings of the Oakervee review** into HS2 and decide the optimal outcome
- Invest in superbuss networks with lower fares

- Create a new £350m Cycling Infrastructure Fund
- **Ensure Heathrow expansion meets its air quality and noise obligations**
- **End the complicated franchising model** and create a simpler, more effective rail system, including giving metro mayors control over services in their areas.
- Require that a minimum service operates during transport strikes
- **Roll out gigabit broadband across the country by 2025**, with £5 billion already committed and provide greater mobile coverage

## People

- **Introduce an Australian-style points-based system** which prioritises people with a good grasp of English, have been law-abiding citizens and have good education and qualifications. Most will require a clear job offer. “There will be fewer lower-skilled migrants and overall numbers will come down.”
- Serious criminals will not be allowed entry; lawbreakers in the UK will be deported as quickly as possible
- People coming into the country from the EU will only be able to access unemployment, housing, and child benefit after five years, in the way non-EEA migrants currently do
- New arrivals will be required to contribute to the funding of the NHS and increase the health surcharge to ensure it covers the full cost of use
- **Equal treatment of EU and non-EU nationals and guarantee the existing rights of EU nationals in the UK**
- **A student visa** will help universities attract talented young people and allow those students to stay on to apply for work here after they graduate
- **A start-up visa, alongside our new rules for those of exceptional talent**, will ensure that we can attract the entrepreneurs of the future who want to start great businesses here in the UK
- **An NHS visa** to attract qualified doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
- **Help employers invest in skills** and look at how we can **improve the working of the Apprenticeship Levy**
- **Build on the Taylor Review** by creating a single enforcement body on employment law, giving workers the right to request a predictable contract, encouraging flexible working and making it the default and extending parental and unpaid care leave
- **Consult on the creation of a new national skills fund worth £3bn**, providing matched funding for individuals and SMEs
- Invest almost £2 billion to upgrade the entire further education college estate and create 20 Institutes of Technology

## Place

- £250m cultural capital programme to support local libraries, regional museums and universities in their local areas
- £150m Community Ownership Fund to encourage local takeovers of civic organisations under threat, including football clubs, pubs and post offices
- **Encourage a new market in long-term fixed rate mortgages with reduced deposits** to open a path for first-time buyers
- Offer more homes to local families, **enabling councils to use developers' contributions to discount homes** by a third for local people
- **Extend the Help to Buy Scheme** from 2021 to 2023
- Reform leaseholds including implementing ban on sale of new leasehold homes
- Introduce a Better Deal for Renters, including abolishing 'no fault' evictions and creating a "lifetime deposit" which moves with the tenant
- Bring forward a Social Housing White Paper to empower tenants and support the continued supply of social homes
- Renew the affordable homes programme
- Introduce a stamp duty surcharge on non-UK resident buyers to fund rough sleeping programmes and initiatives
- **Progress towards target of 300,000 new homes** a year by mid-2020s
- **Amend planning laws that ensure infrastructure is built before new homes**, using a new £10bn Single Housing Infrastructure Fund
- **Protect and enhance the green belt and prioritise brownfield development** while improving "poor quality land"
- **Cut taxes for small retail businesses and local music venues, pubs and cinemas to ensure thriving high streets**

## Competitiveness

- A guarantee not to raise the rates of income tax, National Insurance or VAT
- A pledge to raise the National Insurance threshold to £9,500 next year – representing a tax cut for 31 million workers and aiming to ensure that the first £12,500 earned is tax free
- Expand start-up loans, growing the British Business Bank which has already supported 90k businesses with £7billion in investment or loans

- **Launch a Red Tape Challenge** to ensure that regulation is sensible and proportionate, and that we always consider the needs of small businesses
- **Increase the R&D tax credit rate** to 13 per cent and review the definition of R&D so that investments in cloud computing and data, which boost productivity and innovation, are also incentivised
- Review and reform Entrepreneurs Relief
- **Implement the Digital Services Tax**, ensuring major multinational companies pay their fair share of tax
- Redesign the tax system so that it boosts growth, wages and investment and limits arbitrary tax advantages for the wealthiest in society
- **Strengthen the UK's corporate governance regime**, reform insolvency rules and the audit regime and **improve incentives to attack the problem of excessive executive pay** and rewards for failure
- **Fundamental review of business rates**, further reducing business rates for retail businesses, as well as extending the discount to grassroots music venues, small cinemas and pubs