







What they say about Planning and Related issues

The following statements are taken from Manifestos* to draw out the issues around planning and related issues. There are not statements against each topic for every Party - they may not have made a declaration on this topic, it may be included in another topic, or their comments / proposals on the topic do not relate to planning; the different Parties also have different amounts to say on the various topics.

	Conservatives	Green Party	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Plaid Cymru	UKIP
Climate Change / Carbon Reduction (see also Energy)						
	<p>Achieve at least 3% annual reductions in Welsh-sourced greenhouse gas emissions in devolved areas.</p> <p>Establish an independent mechanism to monitor and evaluate climate change targets.</p> <p>Subject all WAG policies to a carbon impact assessment, to ensure they do not undermine this emissions reduction target.</p> <p>The Climate Change (Wales) Bill [will] set annual targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to set further targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050.</p>	<p>... set the Assembly the target of cutting CO2 emissions by 10% per annum on 1990 levels, with the long term aim of cutting emissions by 65% by 2020 and 90% by 2030. The current 3% target within devolved areas is nowhere near sufficient.</p> <p>Our manifesto ... tackles climate change and environmental degradation throughout, as a part of a greater systemic problem.</p> <p>We are concerned that when finances improve projects such as the M4 relief road and the International Business Park at Junction 33 could be revived. Greens in the Assembly will continue to provide principled opposition to such projects.</p>	<p>Welsh Labour in government has a vision of a sustainable Wales that lives within its environmental limits, using only its fair share of the earth's resources so that our ecological footprint is reduced to the global average availability of resources, and we are resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Continue to invest in adaptation to climate change, ensuring that we are prepared for the changes that might arise, such as extreme weather and flooding.</p> <p>Introduce higher construction standards in new housing as we move towards zero carbon building. We will work towards a 55 per cent improvement in building standards over 2006 levels by 2013.</p>	<p>Going green must be an option for everyone, not just those who can afford it. We will help people to make their homes more energy efficient, cutting carbon emissions and fuel poverty. Renewable energy must be the focus of the next Government, and sustainable transport must be promoted.</p> <p>We will take action to reduce Wales's ecological footprint by 75% by 2050. We will accelerate the drive for renewable energy, promote community power-generation schemes, and develop passenger friendly sustainable transport.</p> <p>Requiring that any reorganisation of public services – including the relocation of health services and the closure of schools – is assessed for its impact of carbon use resulting</p>	<p>We want to build a resilient Wales, one that is more able to cope with the effects of climate change and to utilise its own resources – energy, land and water – to the maximum extent. Plaid Cymru believes, for both environmental and economic reasons, that it is vital we maximise our own abilities to produce our own energy and food.</p> <p>The National Assembly for Wales has agreed to reduce emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, and Plaid in Government will work to ensure that this decision is turned into meaningful and effective action.</p> <p>Ensure that climate change is a consideration in all Government decision-making and we will incentivise the development of climate change planning across the Welsh public sector.</p>	<p>Establish a Royal Commission to investigate “global warming”</p> <p>Close the Department of Climate Change, saving up to £18 bn a year</p>

* Parties included are those who are fielding a cross-Wales coverage



Climate Change / Carbon Reduction (continued)

Maximise the environmental, social and economic benefits of our investment to help reduce climate change, eradicate fuel poverty and boost economic development and regeneration throughout Wales. This will include recognition of the contribution to be made by generators, suppliers, distributors and regulators of energy.

Continue leading our work on the transition to Low Carbon Regions in each region of Wales, coordinating action on reducing emissions from transport, waste, food, land use, housing and the built environment under the leadership of the Wales Spatial Plan Area teams and key partners.

from changed travel patterns and new uses of buildings.

Preventing disastrous climate change is not only an environmental necessity but has added benefits for the economy. Everyone has their part to play, but the Government has a key role in making it easier for us to reduce our impact on the environment.

Communities

Devolve powers from the National Assembly to local communities. We will make it easier for residents to trigger local referendums on issues such as council tax hikes, car parking and business rates.

Increase the role of Town and Community Councils in the planning process.

Ensure development plans reflect the responsibility to deliver sustainable communities across Wales.

Pass a Community Bill of Rights which will arrest the decline of rural communities. This would address issues such as providing affordable housing, giving communities more power to run services, developing community assets and reforming community councils.

Economy / Business



Create at least 4 Enterprise Zones in Wales to promote economic and social regeneration.

Publish a White Paper on the role of the planning process in economic regeneration.

The Enterprise Wales Bill [will] foster the growth of the private sector in Wales, promote enterprise, strengthen the voice of business, and increase relative GVA. The Bill will: ... Reform planning to provide flexibility in return for community reward ... and provide Enterprise Zones.



Ensure all new retail and residential developments, however large, include spaces for local and small, growing businesses.



We believe there is a public consensus on the direction Wales should take, with broad support for the Economic Renewal Programme. Welsh Labour's goal is therefore to implement and further integrate our economic, education, skills and planning policies across all relevant Assembly Government departments and other delivery bodies.



Relax planning restrictions that make it easier for farmers to convert disused buildings on their land into commercial facilities – providing an alternative income for farmers and more business space for local business. This will also help ensure that business is spread across Wales.



Our guiding aim will be to create an economy that works for the people of Wales, helping us to live in sustainable communities with increased prosperity and well-being for all.



Energy

Continue to make the case for devolving power over energy projects up to 100 MW.

Promote a diverse range of renewable energy sources – including solar, wind, marine, small scale biomass, and microgeneration technologies with an aim to produce 100% of our energy needs from renewable sources by 2025. We will aim to achieve 70% delivery by 2020.

Publish a marine energy strategy and

Reducing demand, securing supply.

Prioritise the new 3 Rs: Remove, Reduce, Replace. First remove demand altogether where possible (e.g. by stopping the carbon intensive activity altogether, or by true zero carbon technology); then reduce demand (e.g. by energy-efficiency measures); then switch to renewables for whatever energy need is left.

... introduce a programme of direct Government

Because energy touches on our lives in so many ways: economic development, the environment and fuel poverty and because energy policy is not fully devolved a new focus is needed. We will: Ensure that the First Minister takes overall Ministerial lead for energy policy. This will involve convening regular meetings of the key energy companies and co-ordinating the Assembly Government's departments on this key agenda. We will look to

Unleash a new era of renewable energy production by encouraging the use of offshore tidal and wind resources and promoting community renewable energy schemes.

Revise TAN 8 to ensure that we can increase the amount of energy produced from wind as well as positively engaging communities with renewable energy in their area. Ensure that money from new wind developments goes to community organisations or community councils

Our natural resources are vitally important to the future of Wales. In the next Government, Plaid will negotiate with the UK Government to ensure that all functions in the areas of water and energy generation are devolved. In the meantime we will use the powers we have more effectively to increase renewable energy production.

Immediately instigate a change to planning policy to presume in favour of micro, small-scale or community-

Ban all future onshore wind-farms as environmentally damaging

Subject all existing onshore wind-farms to local planning procedures

Require owners of windfarms rejected locally to dismantle them

Desubsidise wind, wave and solar power as irrelevant to our climate

Build nuclear power stations to safeguard Wales' electricity supply.



work with the private sector to harness the River Severn's tidal energy potential, through small-scale tidal lagoon projects and the development of marine turbines.



investment in wind and other renewable generation, creating jobs in installation and equipment manufacture.

Require all major development plans and planning applications to show how they will contribute to carbon reduction targets.

Set building regulations to require excellent energy standards on a points-based system, which will cover embodied energy of building materials, energy used in construction, energy consumption in use, on-site energy generation and use of heat distribution networks.

Introduce minimum standards for renewables on new build homes, commercial and public buildings.

Aim to obtain about half our energy from renewable sources by 2020 and ensure that emissions from power generation are zero by 2030.

Phase out nuclear power and resolutely oppose any new nuclear power stations. Stop any further investment in new coal-



pursue a mixed energy economy.

The Assembly Government's Low Carbon Energy Statement sets out how we intend to maximise energy savings and energy efficiency, making the majority of the energy production we need in Wales from low carbon sources. Our aim is that by 2025 up to twice as much renewable electricity is generated annually in Wales as today. By 2050 our aim is that almost all our local energy needs are met by low carbon electricity production.

Continue to seek responsibility for renewable energy consents up to 100MW on both sea and land, enabling Wales to move quicker in providing clean energy solutions for all.

Recognise that the Severn Estuary presents a strategically important source of renewable energy with the potential to generate 5 per cent of UK electricity supply. We will work to help ensure that this potential is harnessed.



and not local authorities, where possible, so communities can directly benefit from wind production.

Remove the requirements for planning permission for small-scale microgeneration or Combined Heat and Power in private homes.

Issue a formal statement that the Welsh Government supports renewable and community energy projects as a priority and opposes both new nuclear power because of its detrimental impact on human health and its long-term unsustainability. Oppose new carbon-based power that does not have appropriate capture and storage built in.

Reduce the planning restrictions on small-scale biomass facilities, to encourage their growth, benefiting local economies and helping to meet renewable obligations.



owned renewable energy projects, in every area of Wales. Achieving consents and planning approval for renewable energy production will be simplified.

We will encourage further development of hydro-electric schemes and we will use our review of planning law and environmental bodies to reach this end.

We will look into creating a smart grid for renewable energy in Wales. We will also commission a Welsh Government study on the feasibility of building a tidal lagoon for Wales. We will support the development of lagoons and tidalstream turbines to harness tidal energy.

We would limit further coal production to situations where it would be a substitute for imported coal.

We will legislate to make Community Liaison Committees a statutory requirement for all opencast mining projects in Wales. Committees will meet regularly to review progress and issues arising from mining activities, and will



Reinvest in Welsh coal for use in new, cleaner, coal-fired power plants

Energy (continued)



fuelled power stations.

Encourage renewable heat and combined heat and power by helping councils develop heat distribution networks in suitable urban areas.

Work to increase the adoption of biogas from organic sources such as agricultural and sewage waste materials, working with the water companies to build digestion plants.

Introduce stronger planning policies to support wind, tidal, wave, solar and geothermal energy schemes.

consist of representatives from local communities, the mining companies involved, and local councillors.

Heritage

A [Heritage] Bill to enshrine the protection and promotion of Welsh heritage in legislation. The Bill will reform the listing process to ensure it is responsive to current challenges.

The publication of culture and heritage plans by local authorities will be compulsory.

Seek to introduce a Heritage Preservation Bill to strengthen the protection of listed buildings in Wales.

Create a new listing status to protect green areas of particular importance or value to the community.

Give local councils the power to protect buildings with a social or community significance, such as historic pubs We will allow the protection of buildings that are of importance for social and cultural reasons and strengthen the powers available to local councils to protect buildings that meet local criteria for listing.

Seek to maximise the impact of our built heritage on the experience of tourists visiting Wales. We believe that preserving and developing Wales's built heritage should be closely allied to our regeneration aims.

Housing



Set a target to build at least 10,000 more affordable homes by 2015.
Relate the definition of affordable housing to local price/income ratios.



Promoting affordability and sustainability.



Work with stakeholders to ensure that Local Development Plans and planning policy at a local level helps address the shortfall in homes.



Setting a minimum level of affordable housing in any new development if the market supports this measure, by strengthening local authorities to use planning agreements to do this.
Changing the way in which second homes are categorised in the planning system to give you a say over the number of second homes in your area, so that communities and councils can control the number of second homes.



Bring new sources of finance to invest in affordable housing, working with financial institutions and housing providers.

... aim to create at least 6,500 new affordable homes in Wales over the next Assembly term, tapping into new sources of finance.



Infrastructure (see also Energy & Infrastructure)

Establish a made-in-Wales Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme 'Building Together' as part of a Welsh Infrastructure Plan.

Work with the private sector, EU and UK government to deliver universal broadband coverage and 85% high speed coverage. We will work with providers to improve mobile coverage, particularly in rural Wales.

Establish a national infrastructure planning system for waste, energy and water helping ensure planning arrangements are streamlined and in line with Wales' national policy.

Seek to ensure that all residential premises and all businesses in Wales will have access to Next Generation Broadband by 2015, with the ambition that 50 per cent or more have access to 100Mbps.

The quality of infrastructure in Wales is poor; ignoring this will keep Wales poor.
Investing in broadband by bringing in investment from private sources. We will classify broadband as a utility for planning purposes, so all new developments are designed to accommodate any future broadband provision. Access to new broadband facilities is essential in a modern economy but also tackles inequality.

Underpin the Build for Wales company by a Wales-wide Infrastructure Plan which will bring about investment in transport, schools, hospitals, technology infrastructure and energy.
Pioneer major improvements in mobile phone, broadband and wifi across Wales, including on public transport.

Reinvest in [defence], energy, flood & coastal defences and transport

Management / organisation of planning functions
(see also Transport)



Make Wales' National Parks accountable to local communities through direct elections to National Park Authorities.



Legislate to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle in all our actions across government and all public bodies.
Look to bring the Environment Agency Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission Wales together as one organisation to work closely on the development of 'A Living Wales', sharing services and operational resources to deliver it.



Make National Parks democratically accountable, allowing a proportion of the park boards to be elected. We will also give them the power to promote economic development in their area.



Establish a Planning Inspectorate for Wales answerable to the National Assembly, as well as an Independent Commission to advise on a National Park, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Nature Reserves Policy for Wales. This will be tasked to consider whether planning responsibilities should remain with National Parks Authorities; whether we should create one national organisation to run all National Parks, AONBs and Reserves, with one integrated Warden Service; and whether there should be any changes to boundaries. We will consider the future role of the Countryside Council of Wales, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission Wales. We will seek the full devolution of the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.



Marine Planning
(also see energy)

Enhance protection of our marine environment by ensuring sustainable fishing practises are used and maintaining an emergency tug of the west Wales coast.

..... and create new marine conservation zones

Ensure Marine Development Plans are developed in the Assembly term and developing a partnership approach for fisheries management.

Improve the management of existing Marine Protected Areas and publish marine plans covering all activities to secure sustainable resource use throughout Welsh seas.

Natural Environment and Landscape



Establish a biodiversity budget, funded by revenue from wind farms on public land, enabling targets set in the 2026 Wales Environment Strategy to be achieved. This will be used to restore Wales' natural heritage, such as raised bogs and moorland.

Protect public access to woodland and prioritise funding for new forestry in areas where it reduces flood risk.

Increase penalties for environmental crime – including littering and dog fouling – and ensure rigorous enforcement.



Promote landscape-scale conservation, using reform of planning system to encourage restoration of heath lands, woods, marshland and other important habitats.

Minimise encroachment onto undeveloped 'greenfield sites' wherever possible by reusing previously developed sites that have fallen into disuse.

Increase the tranquillity of our urban environments, with less litter, less noise, reduced light pollution and more green spaces. Everyone should live within walking distance of natural green space.



Continue to protect our beautiful scenery and protected landscapes ...

Make a positive contribution to biodiversity, landscapes and heritage, reducing other environmental pressures and ensuring environmental quality.

Ensure that Wales' sustainable forests are used locally in the building of sustainable homes.

Respond to climate change by helping reduce our carbon footprint by maximising our woodlands for carbon abatement.



Create a new designation of 'Natural Parks' to recognise the environmental significance of areas such as the Cambrian Mountains. This designation, as in France and Italy, will promote economic regeneration through community enterprise, ecosystem services and sustainable tourism, whilst avoiding burdening landowners with the regulations associated with National Parks.

Access to green spaces for activity is essential for well-being and promoting activity.



We will launch a 'Nature for People' programme of major habitat restoration and creation projects throughout Wales, with delivery coordinated between agencies, NGOs and landowners.

This will contribute to achieving our biodiversity targets as well as delivering sustainable community development



Planning System

Publish guidance on the planning system to make it more responsive to sustainable development and the needs of local communities.

Close the planning loop-hole which allows 'garden-grabbing'. Gardens will no longer be designated as potential brown field sites.

Develop a more enterprise-focused planning policy which also allows for

Oppose the watering down of planning regulations, particularly for new roads, runways, incinerators and inappropriate housing developments, and ensure that sustainable development, not just economic development, is at the heart of the planning system.

Take steps to ensure that development is more evenly distributed across the whole of the country, reducing pressure on

Undertake a strategic review of land use in Wales to consider changing demands for food production, natural resources and restoring eco-systems and sustainable development.

Legislate to create more sustainable communities through the planning system using Assembly Government guidance which requires the use of sustainable building standards.

The planning process in Wales is too often distant from local people and communities are denied a say in decisions that have a huge impact on them.

Reform the planning process by focussing on the twin aims of making it quicker and to increasing local voices in the process. We'll order a technical review and act on its findings.

Introduce greater

Environmental regulation, financial incentives and planning policy should work to provide more public and economic benefits on privately-owned land.

Undertake a wholesale reform of the Welsh planning system to encourage the development of a low carbon economy and new business growth, respond to local needs, and create sustainable and modern



Planning System (continued)

community participation and reward in economic and social development, including the release of more land for affordable housing.

housing in the Cardiff region in particular.

To encourage walking and cycling for shorter journeys and improve road safety we would: ... Make streets safe by making them public spaces again. Plan for mixed-use developments where shops, housing and businesses are closely located and connected by pavements and cycleways.

Improve the design of our cities to provide safer streets and public spaces.

Reassess the principles which underpin A Living Wales – our Natural Environment Framework.

In particular Welsh Labour recognises that our environment: has an intrinsic value, is our life support system, is a finite source of raw materials and resources, is central to our quality of life, sense of place, health and wellbeing, and underpins our economic development.

penalties for people who use retrospective planning applications as a loophole in the planning process, including the right to halt and speed up removals of properties without planning permissions.

Reforming the system of Local Development Plans to be far less stringent and bureaucratic and giving local Councillors influence over individual application and requiring sustainability issues to be part of Local Development Plans and to be accounted for in planning decisions.

Developing plans, similar to those from the Liberal Democrats in the UK Government to restrict “garden-grabbing,” by designating gardens as greenfield sites in planning law so they cannot so easily be built over.

Introducing a new planning class use for HMOs, and allowing Councils to remove permitted development rights for this new class use in defined areas. This would mean that houses in these identified areas

communities.

Publish a Planning Reform Paper, as a precursor to new planning legislation in Wales. Current planning legislation, policy and guidance is antiquated and does not provide the mechanism to allow businesses to flourish, local homes to be built or renewable energy and communications developments to be realised.

Planning policy should obsess less about development control and focus more on good design and the promotion of good environmental and energy standards. Planning policy should facilitate, not hinder, economic and business projects and infrastructure projects for the public good.



Planning System (continued)

would require formal planning permission in order to become a HMO, recognising that a wide range of households come into this description.

Regeneration

Coordination of policies and programmes in economic development, infrastructure provision and transport networks is vital to the regeneration of our communities. Many of the challenges lie beyond the boundaries of single organisations and require Welsh Labour in government to work with our partners to deliver the step change in economic regeneration. Revive our seaside towns by investing in the infrastructure, renewal and regeneration of communities.

Make it easier for councils to improve the physical environment of their communities by introducing Tax Increment Financing. This will allow local councils to fund large-scale regeneration projects by borrowing against the future income from business rates and council tax generated as a result of the regeneration. Strong and prosperous high streets and town centres, with small, independent shops, help ensure economically active communities.

We will also invest in a Regeneration Investment Fund in Wales over the next Assembly term as well as encouraging increased private sector investment and we will use this money to promote sustainable investment, and growth and jobs in our towns and cities.

Town Centre / Retail

Reduce the dominance of supermarket chains through a range of measures, such as: Enforce planning restrictions on new out-of-town developments, and require parking charges for private car parks with exemption for the disabled. Insisting that 50% of

Continue our efforts to regenerate our town centres through planning policies breathing new life in to towns by safer and better quality design, developing family friendly environments and mixed use developments.

Allow councils to develop town centres, funded from future business rates income. Give councils more powers to require an impact assessment of large supermarket developments.

Undertake a detailed Retail Strategy for Wales. The retail sector is crucial to vibrant local economies and town centres, and contributes to the health of other businesses as well as providing services to local communities. Design a national plan to improve town centres for local people and visitors,



Town Centre / Retail (continued)

retail floor space in all new developments is affordable space for local small businesses.

Including clear policies on sustainability to enable planning authorities to give priority to local firms and farms.

Prohibiting new private retail parking in large developments, except for that designated for the disabled.

Support local shops through planning policies including business conservation areas, ensuring basic shops are available within walking distance in all urban areas and restricting the power of supermarkets.

Ensure that public transport provides access to local facilities.

using empty shops as commercial offices, promoting local produce and creating more living space in town centres.

Transport (see also Infrastructure)

Seek to establish a direct air link between Wales and North America.

Take full advantage of the opportunities offered by rail electrification and seek to work with the UK government to extend electrification to the Valleys network and west along the Great Western line to Swansea.

... explore the possibility of devolving Network Rail

Reducing car-dependency

Effectively call a halt to new road building and incremental road improvements, with the exception of genuine safety concerns.

Halt expansion of Cardiff airport or any others.

Scrap the subsidised north-air link, reinvesting in improved rail and bus services.

Prioritise the objectives of the National Transport plan to ensure that the existing transport funding is used effectively, the level of resources enhanced and that future investment decisions are made against these overarching strategic priorities.

... the voluntary arrangements of the regional transport consortia have achieved

Without the networks necessary to compete in the modern world, Wales will not be able to deliver the businesses need to improve our economy.

Scrap the wasteful 'Ieuan Air' airlink between North and South Wales, and prioritise green transport, including rail and bus travel.

Making the case for electrifying the Valleys

Increase spending on integrated public transport to 65% of the transport budget by the end of the next Assembly term.

The rail franchise agreement for Wales needs a complete overhaul. We will seek to ensure that the responsibility for the service is transferred entirely to the Welsh Government and we



to Wales.

Seek to improve the rail links between North Wales and the conurbations of North West England and links to South Wales.

Focus the road building budget on maintenance and improve the network through the Building Together scheme.

Create a safer environment for walking and cycling and encourage such exercise as carbon free alternatives to short car journeys.

The creation of a Passenger Transport Authority for Wales to deliver a truly integrated public transport network accessible to all, controlling fares and deciding routes.

The Traws Cambria bus network attempts to be all things to all people, discouraging long distance use. Local rural bus services need appropriate support in addition to developing a high quality express bus network.

A new North-South railway link in Wales using existing track beds where possible. We would identify and safeguard a proposed route from development.

The electrification of Cardiff and Valleys lines into a modern, light rapid transit system. Electrification of Great Western line all the way to West Wales is vital.

Providing affordable, cheaper local transport that is accessible to those with disabilities by investing in buses and subsidising some routes.

Bringing rail services back into public ownership.

a good deal but in order to make the necessary step-change in the integration of transport planning and delivery of services the organisational arrangements for transport have become unnecessarily complicated.

Consider using the provisions of the Transport Wales Act 2006 to establish one or more Joint Transport Authorities.

The existing arrangements for the Wales & Border rail franchise end in 2018 and the next five-year franchise review is in 2013. We believe there is a strong case for reviewing the governance arrangements for the franchise when it is up for renewal. We will examine the feasibility of the Wales & Border rail franchise being run on a not-for-dividend basis, such as Glas Cymru.

Make the case to the UK Government for greater accountability of Network Rail to the Assembly Government.

Continue to argue strongly for the

Lines to begin in 2014 ensuring the right rolling stock is available.

Re-opening closed stations such as Bow Street, Carno and Towyn & Kinmel Bay and seek powers over the maintenance of railway stations, so we can require all new stations and major refurbishments to improve accessibility, safety and act as a community hub.

Ensuring better bus stops and more information for visitors on public transport.

Rationalising the number of organisations with responsibility for transport. All of the local transport responsibilities of local authorities should be transferred to Joint Transport Authorities, each represented and owned by two or three neighbouring local authorities with common transport network interests.

Investing in rail transport by, renegotiating the Arriva Trains Wales contract to improve train frequency and quality, beginning to electrify the Valleys Lines and re-opening closed stations.

will create a notfor-distributable-profit company to run the service.

... complete the devolution of responsibility and funding for Network Rail in order to complete the work of electrifying the Great Western Main Line to Swansea, electrify the Valley Lines Network and put in place a plan for the electrification of the North Wales Main Line and the Marches Line.

We will also increase the frequency of rail services between Cardiff and the west of Wales, and from Fishguard to the east, and examine opportunities to introduce light-rail links in parts of the country, as well as enabling direct services between Ebbw Vale and Newport. We will support more services across mid Wales. Following the success of the Ebbw Vale service, we will reopen services on disused lines where there is a good case to do so.

Seek further powers to regulate bus services and ensure that bus travel is available to all passengers in all parts of Wales.



Ensure future developments are integrated with sustainable transport, rather than relying on car-dependency.



electrification of the main south Wales-London Paddington line through to Swansea. We will also develop the business case for the electrification of other parts of the local rail network in Wales.

Transport is a significant contributor to carbon emissions. We believe it is possible to put transport onto a carbon reduction pathway without risking future economic growth. Continue to encourage and support the development of community transport schemes that meet the needs of those living in rural areas. Examine the best options for providing local bus services to ensure that rural communities have services which are reliable and which provide access to local services and a means to travel to work.

Continue to improve services such as the Trawscambria network ...

Improve rights of way for cyclists and walkers and create an all Wales Coast Path by 2012.

Legislating to place a duty to provide cycle routes in key areas.



Implement a new, express 'TrawsCymru' service, a brand new replacement for the Trawscambria buses with better integrated transport links to rail and park-and-ride, as well as new coaches and fare options.

We will review the value of the north-south air link at the end of the current contract.

Addressing congestion issues on the north-east border and the M4 will continue to be a priority .. as will continuing to improve transport links between north and south.

Invest substantially in a green transport infrastructure.

Roll out our Sustainable Travel Town initiative to larger towns by providing high-quality public transport services and enhanced provision for cyclists and pedestrians, including an extended network of paths, railway tunnels and towpaths.

Seek to ensure and extend integration of the National Cycle Network.





Waste

Create incentives and not penalties to encourage people to recycle. We will pilot recycling reward schemes, whereby residents will be given 'points' for recycling to use in local retail outlets, restaurants and leisure facilities.

Reduce, reuse – and only then recycle.
Aim to raise recycling levels to 70% by 2015 as a move towards a zero-waste system by 2030. The Government provides the infrastructure, people do the recycling.
Oppose the incineration of waste, but encourage domestic composting. Encourage the use of sustainable waste treatment such as anaerobic digestion with energy recovery.

Introduce regulations to restrict biodegradable materials going to landfill. This will help encourage increased recycling and help cut carbon emissions.
Continue to invest in more facilities to help Wales meet the challenge of a zero waste strategy, increasing the levels of recycling helping to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste.

Plaid is committed to the ambitious target of becoming a high-recycling nation by 2025 and a zero-waste nation by 2050. In doing this we will create more green jobs and skills as well as protect and enhance our natural environment. We will achieve this through reducing the amount of waste that we produce, reusing products, and finally, responsible recycling.

Water Management

Protect flood plains with new 'Blue Belts' to prevent irresponsible development.

The Flood Risk Management Bill will prevent irresponsible development on land at high risk of flooding. The main provisions of the Bill will be: To provide clear national guidance, to control inappropriate development on areas identified by Environment Agency Wales to be at high risk of flooding; A requirement for strategic flood consequence assessments to be built into local development plans; duty on

Continue to invest in adaptation to climate change, ensuring that we are prepared for the changes that might arise, such as extreme weather and flooding.

Tackling flooding across Wales protecting areas that flood easily from having additional development and protecting coastal areas from erosion by revising TAN 15.

Reduce the risks of flooding to our villages, towns and cities by investing in flood defences and sustainable urban drainage systems and providing incentives for landowners to better manage water upstream.

Reinvest in [defence], energy, flood & coastal defences and transport



Water Management (continued)

developers to make local people fully aware of the potential risks of flooding from their development; A requirement that any authority which gives planning permission to develop on flood plains takes out an indemnity policy for future flooding in these developments.

Welsh Language & Planning

Our policies to develop local, sustainable economies are an essential step towards supporting Welsh-speaking communities.

Continue to deliver funding for new affordable homes in Wales as this is a vital contribution to sustainable communities that can support the future of the Welsh language.

Issue updated guidance on TAN 20: Planning and the Welsh Language and we will examine the introduction of an objective process for assessing the impact of development on the Welsh language.

We will create new Language Development Areas in order to reverse the decline of the language in areas where Welsh is a community language. An integrated programme will be drawn up for those areas, which will include action on employment, housing, culture, planning and public services.

Web Sites www.welshconservatives.com wales.greenparty.org.uk www.welshlabour.org.uk welshlibdems.org.uk www.plaidcymru.org www.ukipwales.org

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