
WHAT THE MANIFESTOS SAY 2017

INFRASTRUCTURE,
EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS,
TRANSPORT AND DIGITAL

MANIFESTO POLICY PROPOSALS

INFRASTRUCTURE, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS, TRANSPORT AND DIGITAL

This document sets out the key commitments on infrastructure, employment and skills, transport and digital policy in the 2017 Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, UKIP and Green national manifestos.

 CONSERVATIVE PARTY MANIFESTO
<https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto>

 LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO
www.labour.org.uk/manifesto2017

 LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY MANIFESTO
www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto

 UKIP MANIFESTO
www.ukip.org/manifesto2017

 GREEN PARTY MANIFESTO
<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee>

Industrial strategy

■ CONSERVATIVES

- Continue to regulate more efficiently, saving £9 billion through the Red Tape Challenge and the one-in, two-out rule. (p15)
 - Deliver the infrastructure – the road, rail, airports and broadband – that businesses need. (p19)
 - Spend more on research and development so that overall, as a nation, we meet the current OECD average for investment within ten years, establish funding streams to ensure investment for the long-term, and make a modern, technical education available to everyone. (p19)
 - Remove the barriers that hold back small firms with big potential – and let them compete when government itself is the buyer. (p19)
 - Build on the success of world-beating sectors such as car and aero manufacturing, financial services, life sciences, digital technology and our creative industries, and help other sectors develop the conditions which they need to thrive. (p19)
- Create a number of sovereign wealth funds, known as Future Britain funds, which will hold in trust the investments of the British people, backing British infrastructure and the British economy. (p20)
 - Target this spending the £23 billion National Productivity Investment Fund at areas that are critical for productivity: housing, research and development, economic infrastructure and skills. This will include £740 million of digital infrastructure investment, the largest investment in railways since Victorian times, £1.1 billion to improve local transport and £250 million in skills by the end of 2020. The National Productivity Investment Fund will take total spending on housing, economic infrastructure and research and development to £170 billion during the next parliament. (p20)
 - Ask the independent Migration Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Government about how the visa system can become better aligned with our modern industrial strategy. We envisage that the committee's advice will allow us to set aside significant numbers of visas for workers in strategically important sectors, such as digital technology, without adding to net migration as a whole. (p20)

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- Double the Immigration Skills Charge levied on companies employing migrant workers, to £2,000 a year by the end of the Parliament, using the revenue generated to invest in higher level skills training for workers in the UK. (p21)
- Make each partnership and combined authority responsible for co-ordinating their own local industrial strategy in alignment with our national industrial strategy, bringing together local businesses, political and public sector leaders to drive growth and economic regeneration. Wherever possible, deliver growth funding through these organisations. (p24)
- Support local growth through combined authorities, mayoralities and local enterprise partnerships. (p24)
- Give local enterprise partnerships greater weight by backing them in law. (p25)
- Bring sustainable growth to the rural economy and boost our rural areas, so that people who live in the countryside have the same opportunities as those who live in our towns and cities. (p25)
- Extend our successful Coastal Communities Fund to 2022, helping our seaside towns thrive. (p26)
- With devolution now established in London and other parts of England, consolidate the approach, providing clarity across England on what devolution means for different administrations so all authorities operate in a common framework. (p32)
- Support those authorities that wish to combine to serve their communities better. (p32)
- For combined authorities that are based around our great cities, continue to support the adoption of elected mayors, but not for the rural counties. (p32)
- Bring forward a Borderlands Growth Deal, including all councils on both sides of the border. (p33)
- Build on the Cardiff Capital region and Swansea Bay City region deals, and bring forward a North Wales Growth Deal, connecting north Wales with northern England. (p33)
- Work with the Welsh Government to encourage further cross-border working, ensuring that the border between England and Wales does not become a barrier to business, education or communities. Foster opportunities between cities in Wales and the rest of the UK, such as linking economic development between Cardiff, Newport and Bristol. (p33)
- Work to re-establish a strong, stable and inclusive executive in Northern Ireland at the earliest opportunity. (p34)
- Use the structural fund money that comes back to the UK following Brexit to create a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund, specifically designed to reduce inequalities between communities across our four nations. The money that is spent will help deliver sustainable, inclusive growth based on our modern industrial strategy. The design of the fund will be consulted on, including with the devolved administrations, local authorities, businesses and public bodies. (p35)

- Rebalance housing growth across the country, in line with our modern industrial strategy. (p71)

■ LABOUR

- Put in place tight rules to ensure that investment is fairly shared around every region and nation of the UK. (p11)
- Take advantage of near-record low interest rates to create a National Transformation Fund that will invest £250 billion over ten years in upgrading our economy. (p11)
- Instruct the National Infrastructure Commission to report on how to roll out 'ultrafast' 300bps across the UK within the next decade. (p12)
- Deliver universal superfast broadband availability by 2022. (p12)
- Invest in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, working with devolved administrations through the UK National Infrastructure Commission and its devolved counterparts. (p91)
- Invite the National Infrastructure Commission to recommend the next stages for developing and upgrading the National Cycle Network. (p92)
- Build on the Coalition's industrial strategy, working with sectors which are critical to Britain's ability to trade internationally, creating more 'catapult' innovation and technology centres and backing private investment in particular in green innovation. (p41)
- Create a new retail and business strategy to look at the impact of new technology on jobs in key sectors. (p41)
- Continue to champion the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine initiatives and invest significant capital resources in infrastructure projects across the north of England and the Midlands. (p44)
- Devolve further revenue-raising powers away from Westminster, to regions from Cornwall to the North-East. We will ensure that any powers devolved are matched by the funding to deliver on the needs of local people. (p44)
- Devolve more decision-making power over key levers of economic development including transport, housing and skills. (p44)
- Encourage local authorities and local enterprise partnerships to work in partnership with existing business, universities and other business hubs to develop plans for building on already established success in a particular area, including the ability to raise money to incentivise clustering by businesses with particular specialisations. (p44)
- Invest £2 billion in innovative solutions to ensure the provision of high speed broadband across the rural UK, working with local authorities and providing grants to help areas replicate the success of existing community-led projects. (p65)

■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Boost the economy with a major programme of capital investment aimed at stimulating growth across all areas of the UK. (p36)
- Ensure that the National Infrastructure Commission takes fully into account the environmental implications of all national infrastructure decisions. (p37)
- Devolve significant infrastructure spending to local areas. (p37)

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■ UKIP

- Encourage a Buy British campaign. (p12)
- Cutting business rates by 20 per cent for the 1.5 million British businesses operating from premises with a rateable value of less than £50,000. (p13)
- Coastal towns will have top ranking when it comes to national successor funds to the European Regional Development Fund. (p15)
- In coastal enterprise zones, local authorities will be given the power to access low interest government loans to buy up and renovate poor housing stock or empty commercial properties, to create quality residential accommodation. (p15)
- Invest in upgrading existing main line rail services to create additional capacity, expand electrification, and improve east-west rail services and connections across the north of England. (p50)
- Oppose the proposed new Thames Crossing in Thurrock and will look to re-open a consultation for a new crossing further east. (p50)
- Continue to support the expansion of smaller regional airports. (p51)
- Major infrastructure projects will be required to give much more respect to irreplaceable natural habitats. (p53)
- Match fund grants made by local authorities for rural capital projects which enhance the local environment or help recovery from environmental disasters. (p53)
- Offer local referenda to overturn unpopular development approvals. (p53)

- Withdraw from the Paris climate agreement and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, to enhance our industrial competitiveness. (p56)

■ GREEN PARTY

- Invest in regional rail links and electrification of existing rail lines, especially in the South West and North of England, rather than HS2 and the national major roads programme. (p2)
- Create over 1 million jobs through our programme of green investment and restoring the public sector. (p5)
- Take steps towards the introduction of a universal basic income, including a government sponsored pilot scheme. (p5)
- Use the government-owned Royal Bank of Scotland to create a network of local people's banks for every city and region, obliged to lend locally and provide cheap basic banking services. (p5)
- Support and promote small businesses, co-operatives and mutuals. (p5)
- Support start-ups and creative enterprises through community credit and green investment, to provide opportunities for young people to be creative and innovative. (p5)
- Trade rules that respect human rights, labour standards, environmental standards and climate commitments with mechanisms for individuals, groups and communities to bring grievances. (p19)
- Give Parliament a vote on any new trade deals. (p21)

Employment and skills

■ CONSERVATIVES

- Continue to increase the National Living Wage to 60 per cent of median earnings by 2020 and then by the rate of median earnings. (p16)
- Make sure that people working in the 'gig' economy are properly protected. (p16)
- Help veterans to start new careers by ensuring that the skills and qualifications they gained in service are recognised by civilian employers and by introducing a one year holiday on Employer National Insurance Contributions for firms hiring service personnel after they leave service. (p42)
- Reform of the funding, institutional and qualifications frameworks for technical education, in partnership with British industry. (p52)
- Replace 13,000 existing technical qualifications with new qualifications, known as T-levels, across fifteen routes in subjects including construction, creative and design, digital, engineering and manufacturing, and health and science. Increase the number of teaching hours by 50 per cent to an average of 900 hours per year and make sure that each student does a three-month work placement as part of their course. (p52)
- Invest in further education colleges to make sure they have world-class equipment and facilities. (p52)
- Create a new national programme to attract experienced industry professionals to work in further education colleges. (p52)
- Establish new institutes of technology, backed by leading employers and linked to leading universities, in every major city in England, providing courses at degree level and above, specialising in technical disciplines. They will develop their own local identity to make sure they can meet the skills needs of local employers. (p52)
- Launch a major review of funding across further, technical and higher education as a whole. (p53)
- Ensure that colleges deliver the skills required by local businesses through skills advisory panels and local enterprise partnerships working at a regional and local level. (p53)
- Deliver the commitment to create three million apprenticeships for young people by 2020 and drive up the quality of apprenticeships to ensure they deliver the skills employers need. (p53)
- Allow large firms to pass apprenticeship levy funds to small firms in their supply chain, and work with the business community to develop a new programme to allow larger firms to place apprentices in their supply chains. (p53)
- Introduce a UCAS-style portal for technical education. (p53)
- Help all workers seeking to develop their skills in their existing jobs by introducing a new right to request leave for training for all employees. (p53)

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- Introducing a national retraining scheme with the costs of training met by the Government, with companies able to gain access to the apprenticeship levy to support wage costs during the training period. (p53)
 - Break down the barriers to public sector workers taking on more qualified roles because of their prior educational attainment. For instance, we will ensure that teaching assistants can become qualified teachers and healthcare assistants can become nurses via a degree apprenticeship route. (p53)
 - Introduce a right to lifelong learning in digital skills. (p53)
 - Continue to strive for full employment. (p54)
 - No further radical welfare reform in this Parliament. (p54)
 - Continue the roll-out of Universal Credit. (p54)
 - Offer a holiday on their employers' National Insurance Contributions for a full year for businesses employing former wards of the care system, someone with a disability, those with chronic mental health problems, ex-offenders, and those who have been unemployed for over a year. (p54)
 - Provide targeted support for young people between the ages of 18 to 24 to help them get into work. (p54)
- **LABOUR**
- Work with businesses, trade unions, devolved governments and others to identify specific labour and skill shortages. (p29)
 - Devolve responsibility for skills, wherever there is an appetite, to city regions or devolved administrations. (p39)
 - Improve careers advice and open up a range of routes through, and back into, education, striking a balance between classroom and on the job training, to ensure students gain both technical and soft skills. (p39)
 - Ensure vocational routes incorporate the service sector as well as traditional manufacturing, working in tandem with the broad industrial strategy. (p39)
 - Support the apprenticeship levy, but take steps to ensure that every apprenticeship is of a high quality. (p40)
 - Maintain the apprenticeship levy while taking measures to ensure high quality by requiring the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to report on an annual basis to the Secretary of State on quality outcomes of completed apprenticeships. (p40)
 - Set a target to double the number of completed apprenticeships at NVQ level 3 by 2022. (p40)
 - Give employers more flexibility in how the levy is deployed, including allowing the levy to be used for pre-apprenticeship programmes. (p40)
 - Replace Advanced Learner Loans and upfront course fees with direct funding making further education courses free at the point of use, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses. (p40)

- Guarantee trade union representation in the governance structures of the Institute of Apprenticeships. (p42)
 - Protect the £440 million funding for apprenticeships for small and medium sized employers who do not pay the levy. (p42)
 - Set targets to increase apprenticeships for people with disabilities, care leavers and veterans, and ensure broad representation of women, BAME, LGBT and people with disabilities in all kinds of apprenticeships. (p42)
 - Consult on introducing incentives for large employers to over-train numbers of apprentices to fill skills gaps in the supply chain and the wider sector. (p42)
 - Reverse cuts to Unionlearn. (p42)
 - Scrap punitive welfare sanctions and change how Jobcentre Plus staff are performance-managed. (p57)
 - Make the building of new homes, including council homes, a priority through a National Transformation Fund, as part of a joined-up industrial and skills strategy that ensures a vibrant construction sector with a skilled workforce and rights at work. (p60)
- **LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**
- Improve the quality of vocational education, including skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges. (p29)
 - Improve links between employers and schools, encouraging all schools to participate in employment and enterprise schemes that promote regular experiences in business. (p29)
 - Aim to double the number of businesses which hire apprentices, including by extending apprenticeships to new sectors such as creative and digital industries. (p31)
 - Develop national colleges as national centres of expertise for key sectors, such as renewable energy, to deliver high-level vocational skills. (p31)
 - Work with the Apprenticeship Advisory Group to increase the number of apprentices from BAME backgrounds, ensure gender balance and encourage under-represented groups to apply. (p31)
 - Identify and seek to solve skills gaps – for example the lack of advanced technicians – by expanding higher vocational training. (p31)
 - Ensure that all the receipts from the apprenticeship levy in England are spent on training, aiming to fund a wider range of types of training. (p31)
 - Aim to meet all basic skills needs including literacy, numeracy and digital skills by 2030. (p32)
 - Create individual accounts for funding mature adult and part-time learning and training, and provide for all adults individual access to all necessary career information, advice and guidance. (p32)
 - Develop the skilled workforce needed to support this growth with a major expansion of high-quality apprenticeships, including advanced apprenticeships, backed up with new sector-led national colleges. We will develop a national skills strategy for key sectors, including low carbon technologies, to help match skills and people. (p41)

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■ UKIP

- Bring forward legislation requiring employers to advertise jobs to British citizens before they offer them overseas. (p14)
- Ensure employers are legally free to choose to hire a young unemployed British person under the age of 25 ahead of a better qualified or more experienced foreign applicant. (p14)
- Make Gordon Brown's British Jobs for British workers plausible, and meaningful in law. (p14)
- Enforce the minimum and living wage and reverse government cuts to the number of minimum wage inspectors in England and Wales. (p14)
- Significantly tighten up rules on zero-hours contracts and severely limit their use. (p14)
- Ensure effective career development assumes a more important role in the national curriculum and is assessed accordingly. (p25)
- Introduce practical 'employability' lessons into the careers' syllabus, teaching 'soft' skills such as interview skills, team-working and time-management, making presentations, public speaking, networking, making a good first impression, and developing social skills. (p25-26)
- Schools and colleges should establish links with local businesses, to tell students what they need from new recruits, to offer advice, and to show how business works. (p26)
- Include practical information about setting up your own business into the syllabus. (p26)

- Encourage businesses to fund job placements for older people. (p29)
- Guarantee a job in the police service, prison service or border force for anyone who has served in the Armed Forces for a minimum of 12 years. Our 'Boots to Business' policy will help ex-service personnel set up their own businesses by offering loans, grants, free professional advice and mentoring to any veteran who wishes to pursue an entrepreneurial career after leaving the forces. (p46)

■ GREEN PARTY

- Phase in a 4-day working week (a maximum of 35 hours) and abolish exploitative zero-hours contracts. (p5)
- Reduce the gap between the highest and lowest paid, and increase the minimum wage to reach a genuine living wage of £10 an hour by 2020. (p5)
- End the gender pay gap, and require a minimum 40 per cent of all members of public company and public sector boards to be women. (p5)
- A phased in abolition of the cap on employees' national insurance so that the wealthiest pay more. (p5)
- Create a fairer working world for young people by scrapping age-related wage bands and raising the national minimum wage to living wage levels for all. (p15)

Transport

■ CONSERVATIVES

- Examine ways in which the regulation of utilities and transport infrastructure can be improved to deliver a better deal for customers and sharper incentives for investment efficiency. (p16)
- Our ambition is for Britain to lead the world in electric vehicle technology and use. We want almost every car and van to be zero-emission by 2050 – and will invest £600 million by 2020 to help achieve it. (p24)
- Invest in more low-emission buses, as well as supporting audio-visual displays for bus passengers and community minibuses for rural areas poorly served by public transport. (p24)
- Increase services on our main lines and commuter routes, and launch new services to places which are poorly served or host major new housing projects. (p24)
- Continue to support local authorities to expand cycle networks and upgrade facilities for cyclists at railway stations. (p24)
- Continue to develop the strategic road network, providing extra lanes on our motorways and improving key routes whilst also paying attention to parts of the country left behind because of poor transport connections. We will continue to invest in roads to fix pinch points and open up opportunities for new housing and local growth. (p24)
- Do more to improve the quality of road surfaces, filling potholes – especially in residential areas – and reducing road noise. (p25)
- Take action against poor air quality in urban areas. (p25)
- Introduce significantly discounted bus and train travel for apprentices. (p53)
- Take steps to tackle rogue private parking operators. (p59)
- Maintain all other pensioner benefits, including free bus passes for the duration of this Parliament. (p66)
- Publish far more information about public services online, including relevant information about local issues and public transport so that every person can find out up to date information about roadworks, planning applications and bus routes online. (p80)
- Use digital technology to improve our railways, so that our roads and tracks can carry more people, faster, more safely and more efficiently. (p81)

■ LABOUR

- Complete the Science Vale transport arc that runs from Oxford to Cambridge through Milton Keynes. (p11 & p91)
- Make utility companies return roads to a condition no worse than when they started digging. (p89)
- Invest in a modern, integrated, accessible and sustainable transport system that is reliable and affordable. (p90)
- Introduce regulations to designate and protect routes of critical community value, including those that serve local schools, hospitals and isolated settlements in rural areas. (p90)

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- Invest to regenerate the local and regional economies across the whole country, so that every area gets its fair share of transport investment. (p91)
 - Position the UK at the forefront of the development, manufacture and use of ultra-low emission vehicles, supporting the creation of clean modes of transport through investment in low emission vehicles. (p91)
 - Retrofit thousands of diesel buses in areas with the most severe air quality problems to Euro 6 standards. (p91)
 - Reform the legislation governing taxi and private hire services, introducing national standards to guarantee safety and accessibility, updating regulations to keep pace with technological change and ensuring a level playing field between operators. (p92)
 - Continue to upgrade our highways and improve roadworks at known bottlenecks. The A1 North, the Severn Bridge and the A30 provide essential connections and require our urgent consideration. (p92)
 - Work with the Welsh Government to scrap the tolls on the Severn Bridge. (p92)
 - Reset the UK's road safety vision and ambitiously strive for a transport network with zero deaths, reintroducing road-safety targets and setting out bold measures that will continuously improve safety standards. (p92)
 - Refocus the roads building and maintenance programmes, connecting our communities, feeding public transport hubs and realising untapped economic potential. (p92)
 - Introduce a new Clean Air Act to deal with the Conservative legacy of illegal air quality. (p93)
 - Enable councils to provide first class bus services by extending the powers to re-regulate local bus services to all areas that want them, and support the creation of municipal bus companies that are publicly run for passengers not profit. (p122)
- **LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**
- Significant investment in road and rail infrastructure. (p37)
 - Pass a Green Transport Act. (p47)
 - Prevent 40,000 deaths a year with our Air Quality Plan to reduce air pollution. (p47)
 - Introduce a diesel scrappage scheme, and a ban on the sale of diesel cars and small vans in the UK by 2025. (p48)
 - Extend ultra-low-emission zones to 10 more towns and cities. (p48)
 - All private hire vehicles and diesel buses licensed to operate in urban areas to run on ultra-low-emission or zero-emission fuels within five years. (p48)
 - Reform vehicle taxation to encourage sales of electric and low emission vehicles and develop electric vehicle infrastructure including universal charging points. (p48)
 - Continue the Access for All programme, improving disabled access to public transport as a key priority. (p62)
 - Shift more freight from road to rail. (p63)
 - Deliver the Transport for the North strategy to promote growth, innovation and prosperity across northern England. (p63)
 - Develop more modern, resilient links to and within the south-west peninsula to help develop and diversify the regional economy. (p63)

- Complete East West Rail, connecting Oxford and Cambridge and catalysing major new housing development. (p63)
- Ensure London's transport infrastructure is improved to withstand the pressure of population and economic growth. (p63)
- Encourage the swift take-up of electric and driverless vehicles. (p63)
- Introduce a new Young Person's Bus Discount Card, for young people aged 16 to 21, giving a two-thirds discount on bus travel – allowing young people to access education, apprenticeships and work. (p63)
- Halt the decline in bus services and carry out a review of bus funding and bus policies. (p63)
- Give principal local authorities the power to run, commission and regulate the bus network in their area. (p63)
- Provide local authorities and communities with the powers to improve transport and ticketing with the ability to introduce network wide and smart ticketing systems. (p63)
- Design towns and cities as safe and attractive walking spaces and implement the recommendations of the Get Britain Cycling report. (p63)
- Shift more freight from road to rail. (p63)
- Increase accessibility to public places and transport by making more stations wheelchair accessible, improving the legislative framework governing blue badges, setting up a benchmarking standard for accessible cities. (p71)

■ UKIP

- Encourage local trade by pushing every local authority in the country to offer at least 30 minutes' free parking in town centres and shopping parades. (p13)
- Invest in upgrading existing main line rail services to create additional capacity, expand electrification, and improve east-west rail services and connections across the north of England. (p50)
- Oppose the proposed new Thames Crossing in Thurrock and will look to re-open a consultation for a new crossing further east. (p50)
- Support the installation of rapid charging stations for electric vehicles in towns and cities, and encourage off-street parking and charging provision in all new housing and industrial developments through the local planning process. (p51)
- Prevent diesel drivers from being penalised through higher taxes, parking fees, or emissions' zone charging. (p51)
- A scrappage scheme giving diesel car owners up to £2,000 to get rid of their vehicles combined with an incentive scheme encouraging drivers to exchange their vehicles for electric or hybrid models. (p51)
- Provide start-up grants to support community bus operators using smaller and more efficient buses where commercial operators have cut essential services. (p51)
- Aim to remove existing tolls from publicly owned roads and block the introduction of new toll roads. (p51)
- Not allow speed cameras to be used as revenue-raisers for local authorities. (p51)

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- Scrap HS2 and ensure no infrastructure project will ever again be allowed permission to wreak such catastrophic environmental damage. (p53)

■ GREEN PARTY

- Introduce a one-off fine on car manufacturers who cheated the emissions testing regime and create a new Clean Air Act, expanding and funding a mandatory clean air zone network. (p7)
- Work to increase public investment in the railways, trams, ferries and buses, as well as to make our streets and roads safer for everyone. (p23)
- Return the railways to public ownership and re-regulate buses, investing in increased bus services especially in rural and other poorly served areas. (p23)
- All public transport should be fully accessible and step-free with a phase-in of free local public transport for young people, students, people with disabilities, and older people. (p23)
- Invest in low traffic neighbourhoods and safe, convenient networks of routes for walking and cycling, including safe places for learning to cycle, so people of all ages and those with disabilities can choose to make local trips on foot, by bike or mobility scooter. (p23)
- Help end the public health crisis caused by air pollution by increasing incentives to take diesel vehicles off the roads. (p23)

- Invest in regional rail links and electrification of existing rail lines, especially in the South West and North of England, rather than wasting money on HS2 and the national major roads programme. (p23)

Digital technology

■ CONSERVATIVES

- Introduce a right to lifelong learning in digital skills. (p53)
- Deliver a digital charter, working with industry and charities to establish a new framework that balances freedom with protection for users, and offers opportunities alongside obligations for businesses and platforms. (p77)
- At least one new institute of technology in the UK, dedicated to world leading digital skills and developed and run in partnership with the tech industry. (p78)
- Make broadband switching easier and pricing more transparent. (p78)
- Ensure that consumers and businesses have access to the digital infrastructure they need to succeed. (p78)
- The Universal Service Obligation will ensure that by 2020 every home and every business in Britain has access to high speed broadband. (p78)
- Work to provide gigaspeed connectivity to as many businesses and homes as possible. (p78)

- Introduce a full fibre connection voucher for companies across the country by 2018 and by 2022 we will have major fibre spines in over a hundred towns and cities, with 10 million premises to be connected to full fibre and a clear path to national coverage over the next decade. (p78)
- By 2022, extend mobile coverage further to 95 per cent geographic coverage of the UK. (p78)
- Continue to release more spectrum from public sector use to allow greater private sector access and begin the roll-out of a new 5G network, providing gigaspeed connection to your smart phone. We plan to have the majority of the population covered by a 5G signal by 2027. (p78)
- Take steps to protect the vulnerable and give people confidence to use the internet. (p79)
- Give people new rights to ensure people are in control of their own data. (p79)
- Bring forward a new data protection law. (p80)
- Put the National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care on a statutory footing. (p80)
- Further strengthen cyber security standards for government and public services, requiring all public services to follow the most up to date cyber security techniques appropriate. (p80)
- Create a new presumption of digital government services by default and an expectation that all government services are fully accessible online, with assisted digital support available for all public sector websites. (p80)
- Publish far more information about public services online, including relevant information about local issues and public transport so that every person can find out up to date information about roadworks, planning applications and bus routes online. (p80)
- Publish operational performance data of all public-facing services for open comparison as a matter of course. (p81)
- Central and local government will be required to release information regularly and in an open format, and data will be aggregated and anonymised where it is important to do so. (p81)
- Use common platforms across government and the wider public sector. Enable people to have one single, common and safe way of verifying themselves to all parts of government. (p81)
- Roll out Verify, so that people can identify themselves on all government online services by 2020, using their own secure data that is not held by the Government. (p81)
- Set out a strategy to rationalise the use of personal data within the Government, reducing data duplication across all systems. Automatically comply with the Once-Only principle in central government services by 2022 and wider public services by 2025. (p81)
- Use digital innovation in conjunction with our social care reforms set out in chapter four. Support new providers seeking to use digital technology to monitor long-term conditions better, deploy carers to patients or support better domiciliary care away from hospitals. (p81)

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- Use digital technology to improve our railways, so that our roads and tracks can carry more people, faster, more safely and more efficiently. (p81)
- Use digital technology to release massive value from our land that currently is not realised, introducing greater specialisation in the property development industry and far greater transparency for buyers. (p82)
- Combine the relevant parts of HM Land Registry, Ordnance Survey, the Valuation Office Agency, the Hydrographic Office and Geological Survey to create a comprehensive geospatial data body within government. (p82)
- Digitise the planning process and help create the most comprehensive digital map of Britain to date. Create innovative tools to help people and developers build. (p82)
- Grow the digital economy and ensure that trade agreements do not impede cross-border data flows, whilst maintaining strong data protection rules to protect personal privacy. (p31)
- Extend the use of technology in court services where it enhances access to justice, timely dispute resolution and efficient administration. (p81)
- Invest in broadband in rural communities, to ensure that the nation's prosperity is felt beyond large towns and cities. (p88)
- Introduce a £1 billion Cultural Capital Fund to upgrade existing cultural and creative infrastructure to be ready for the digital age. (p95)

■ LABOUR

- Deliver universal superfast broadband availability by 2022. (p12)
 - Instruct the National Infrastructure Commission to report on how to roll out 'ultrafast' 300bps across the UK within the next decade. (p12)
 - Ensure all urban areas, as well as major roads and railways, have uninterrupted 5G coverage. (p12)
 - Improve mobile internet coverage and expand provision of free public wifi in city centres and on public transport. (p12)
 - Appoint a Digital Ambassador to liaise with technology companies to promote Britain as an attractive place for investment. (p15)
- ### ■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
- Aim to meet all basic skills needs including literacy, numeracy and digital skills by 2030. (p32)
 - Initiate a spending review after the General Election focusing on delivering efficiency, funding proven spend-to-save initiatives, pursuing local and community integration to drive efficiency, and investing in technology to get public services and front-line staff online. (p37-p39)
 - Invest to ensure that broadband connections and services to be provided before 2020 have a speed of 2 Gbps or more, with fibre to the premises (FTTP) as standard and unlimited usage by 2020 across the whole of the UK. SMEs should be prioritised in the roll-out of hyperfast broadband. (p37 & p41)
 - Reviewing the Business Rates system, prioritising reforms that recognise the development of the digital economy. (p40)

- Aim to double the number of SMEs participating in the digital economy. (p41)
- Commit to build digital skills in the UK and retain coding on the national curriculum in England. (p41)
- Create more 'catapult' innovation and technology centres. (p41)
- Ensure that every property in the UK is provided, by 2022, with a superfast broadband connection with a download speed of 30Mbps, an upload speed of 6Mbps, and an unlimited usage cap. (p65)
- Invest £2 billion in innovative solutions to ensure the provision of highspeed broadband across the rural UK, working with local authorities and providing grants to help areas replicate the success of existing community-led projects. (p65)
- Work with Ofcom to ensure that mobile phone companies provide fast and reliable coverage in rural areas. (p65)
- Introduce a digital bill of rights that protects people's powers over their own information. (p72)

■ GREEN PARTY

- Support and promote the roll out of high speed broadband. (p5)



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