

## Scottish Elections 2016 Comparisons with the AGCC Manifesto

Chamber asks	SNP	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Green	UKIP	Comments
<b>Deliver housing</b>							
Construct 3,500 new affordable homes for working families in the North east	?	?	?	?	?	?	None of the parties' manifestos specifies how the number of new homes will be distributed across Scotland
Pilot a "housing land corporation" in the North-east to register land in public and quasi-public ownership	?	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	The Conservatives would ask local authorities to compile this register for brownfield sites. UKIP wants to identify land held long dormant by local and central government, though they don't specify the method. The SNP manifesto calls for a public register of the ownership of major tracts of rural land by landowners or tenants but do not specify "public" ownership. Labour wants Scottish land to be registered in the EU.
Increase flexibility for local planning policy in response to economic changes	x	x	x	x	x	x	The Lib Dem and Green parties want to review Scottish planning policy but focus on environmental protection and community involvement. The Conservatives wish to speed up planning decisions by tying planning fees to departments' performance. Labour's manifesto commits to reforming the planning system, but focuses on increasing the voice of communities.
Fast-track brownfield sites	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	The UKIP manifesto sets out a Brown Field First policy which would identify all sites, provide a grant for remedial works, cut LBTT to zero and speed up the planning process. The Conservatives suggest compiling a register of all brownfield land and add a presumption for building there for major housing developments, but no fast-tracking. Labour wants to give local authorities the power to compel the sale of derelict and brownfield land for early development.
Review the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	The SNP and the Greens want to review CPOs to bring vacant and derelict land into use. Labour wants to give local authorities the power to compel the sale of derelict and brownfield land for early development, and to take over assets and hand them to cooperatives.
<b>Enhance connectivity</b>							
Deliver the recommendations of the Aberdeen to Fraserburgh/Peterhead study	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Cut 20 minutes from the rail journey time between Aberdeen and the Central Belt	?	?	x	?	x	x	The SNP, Conservatives and Lib Dems all promise to improve the connection, but do not specify time reductions.
Open new rail stations in the North-east	x	x	?	x	x	x	The SNP manifesto pledges to invest in "redeveloped" station hubs in Aberdeen, but no new stations. Labour would open new stations, but does not specify where.
Deliver promised improvements to the Inverness-Aberdeen line	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	
Ensure rolling stock and service levels on trains to and from the region are fit for purpose	?	x	x	x	x	?	The UKIP manifesto mentions there is insufficient rolling stock, but does not specify the North-east. The SNP mentions that services and seat capacity will improve from 2018. The Greens want to make rail services public to improve fares.
Dual the A96 from Aberdeen to Inverness within the timeline	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	
Open the AWPR on time and on budget				x			The AWPR is mentioned by the SNP manifesto as being under construction. No other parties mention it, perhaps because it is already on track for delivery.
Improve the Haudagain roundabout after the AWPR is completed	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Work with the UK Government to secure a commitment to expand Heathrow's capacity				x			No mention from any party on expanding airport capacity in England
Support Aberdeen Airport to retain links to London and overseas markets				x			No mention from any party on Aberdeen Airport or maintaining air links
Invest in the transport links around Aberdeen and Peterhead harbours				x			No mention from any party on North-east harbours. The Greens only mention harbour infrastructure in the context of flooding defences.
Continue supporting ferry services to and from Aberdeen	✓	x	✓	✓	?	x	The Lib Dems wish to reduce the ferry rates by 50% between the Northern Isles and the mainland. The SNP would keep the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) in the current routes and reduce ferry fares on services to Orkney and Shetland, while the Greens want to keep ferry services in public hands and expand the RET to the mainland-Orkney service.
Roll out mobile and super-fast broadband coverage as planned by Digital Scotland				✓			The Conservatives support 100% coverage and want to give £5m more to Community Broadband. Labour expands the current plans to rural areas and islands, and suggests ultrafast broadband zones for digital and creative industries. The Greens want high-speed broadband for all, and Wi-Fi and 3G coverage in public transport and stations.

<b>Develop the workforce</b>							
Develop training opportunities for teachers to better understand business	x	x	x	x	x	x	Labour comes close by saying they will fund teacher training in coding and IT skills, but no mention of broad business connections.
Continue to ensure the Developing the Young Workforce groups have the necessary resources and autonomy	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	The SNP and Lib Dems express their support for DYW and building links between schools and businesses, and creating VQs that meet employers' needs. Labour just mentions the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce in the context of people with disabilities.
Give schools and local authorities the flexibility to develop curriculums that allow for interaction with business	x	x	x	✓	x	x	The SNP and Lib Dems express their support for DYW and building links between schools and businesses, and creating VQs that meet employers' needs. Labour only mentions the expansion of school curricula in music, sport and the arts.
Recognise employers who invest in their workforce and support them to reduce their cost burden	x	✓	x	✓	x	x	The SNP mention the Business Pledge and wanting SMEs to have apprentices, but no broad business support in response to training. The Conservatives propose to partfund internship schemes and work with businesses to develop at least 10 new skills academies. The Lib Dems want to use the revenues from the apprenticeship levy to cut business taxes for those that already provide high levels of training.
Increase the provision and reduce the costs of childcare by improving local delivery and funding models	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	The SNP wish to pilot new models of childcare, invest in 600 new centres and create an induction programme for childminders. Labour wants to make the entitlement to be "flexible, all-age, year-round and wrap-around". The Conservatives and Lib Dems focus on extending the entitlement by age groups.
Work with the UK Government to create a new post-study work scheme for international students	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	All Scottish parties support a post-study work scheme, except for UKIP. The SNP have previously stated their support for it, but do not mention it in their manifesto.
<b>Implement a competitive fiscal policy</b>							
Complete a full review of business taxation	x	x	x	x	?	x	The SNP has committed to a "revenue neutral" review of business rates. The Conservatives propose to freeze businesses rates during this parliament, but their support of the BR review does not extend to other taxes. The Lib Dems support a full review of business rates, to reconsider the penalties faced when businesses improve their premises and the difficulties for start-ups. The Greens want to review the system of reliefs and change the property-based valuation system to a land value tax. UKIP wants to reduce business rates but do not offer a method.
Remove the Council Tax freeze, allowing changes to be made within agreed limits	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	The SNP and Conservatives both intend to remove the council tax freeze and set a cap of 3% annual increases for councils. The Lib Dems support removing the freeze but do not propose caps. Both Lib Dems and Greens want a new system based on land values. Labour wants a new property-based value system.
Examine the impact of LBTT and consider devolving the ability to set its bands to local authorities	x	✓	x	x	?	x	The Greens do not want to review LBTT, but they do want to devolve it to local level. Labour has no plans to change LBTT rates and bands
Evaluate whether planning application fees are proving a barrier to development					✓		The planning system is currently under review and a Bill will be presented after the report is published. The Conservatives propose linking planning fees to planning departments' performance.
Reduce APD by 50% within this Parliament	✓	x	x	x	x	x	
Clearly state how new powers will be used following the Scotland Act					x		Not really a commitment from any party, various partial applications of the devolved powers.
Provide guidance on how Scottish taxation will operate in relation to the UK fiscal regime					x		
<b>Support international growth</b>							
Differentiate support for exporting from that aimed at Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)					x		
Strengthen the support structure for non-account managed companies by encouraging SDI to collaborate with trade associations					x		
Encourage collaboration on trade missions between Chambers of Commerce, SE and SDI					x		
Create an export hub in Aberdeen involving Chambers, UKTI, SE and SDI					x		However, the SNP's Trade and Investment Strategy presents the idea of hubs in London, Dublin and Brussels to attract investment to Scotland.
Support universities to attract funding and investment to improve their international standing	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	The SNP do not mention funding, but they want to develop joint R&D initiatives among academic institutions. The Conservatives propose setting a graduate contribution of £1,500 per year once they start earning £20,000. Labour mentions supporting connectivity and infrastructure development to improve universities' international standing. The Lib Dems would support universities getting a high level of UK science funding.
Use existing international networks to help businesses make connections in overseas markets	✓	x	x	x	x	x	The SNP manifesto refers to the government's trade and investment strategy, which highlights collaboration with businesses, and SDI's High Growth Market Unit, which may have international connections.
<b>Cooperate on devolution</b>							
Continue working collaboratively towards the delivery of the Smith commission recommendations					✓		This was already delivered prior to the Scottish Elections through the Scotland Act
Collaborate with the UK Government on issues which require approval from both governments					✓		This was already delivered prior to the Scottish Elections through the Scotland Act
Develop an evidence-based view on the application of the newly devolved powers					x		The SNP will create a Bill with timescales for applying the new social security powers
Empower Scottish cities through local devolution of power and funding	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	The SNP want to consider devolving a portion of income tax to councils, create a Community Empowerment Act, continue setting City Deals, Town Centre Partnerships and Regional Economic Partnerships; and let island communities decide how to invest locally collected Crown Estate revenues. Labour states they are committed to local devolution, giving councils the power over a reformed council tax, a new Tourist Tax, a new Land Value Tax and Crown Estate revenues.
Commit to embedding the new powers and assessing their impact before seeking further devolution to Scotland	x	x	x	x	x	✓	The SNP and the Greens are in favour of a second independence referendum. The Green manifesto says they will pursue further devolution for Holyrood until then.
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>14/42</b>	<b>10/42</b>	<b>11/42</b>	<b>13/42</b>	<b>7/42</b>	<b>6/42</b>	