

FACING UP TO THE BREXIT CHALLENGE

Borders fishing, farming and exporting businesses have been harmed by Boris Johnson's flawed Brexit choices on trade that 62% of Scots did not support. The UK Government is now undertaking a power grab on the powers of the Scottish Parliament that, in 1997, 62% of Borders voters supported re-establishing. Boris Johnson, whose party has not won an election in Scotland since 1955, has denied Scotland's young people access to the Erasmus programme and is now even challenging a Scottish Government Bill that enshrined the UN Charter on the Rights of the Child into Scots Law. It is crucial we put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands, and not leave it in Boris Johnson's. When the COVID-19 crisis is over, we want to allow you to exercise your democratic right to choose Scotland's future. It is your right to have that choice.

Independence, regarded as normal in other nations our size, is our only route back to EU membership and full access to its 450 million customers, if Scotland chooses to regain the sovereign powers independence offers. We want to ensure you can exercise your democratic right to choose Scotland's future, because we believe it is your inalienable right. Others seek to deny you that choice. In the meantime, we will:

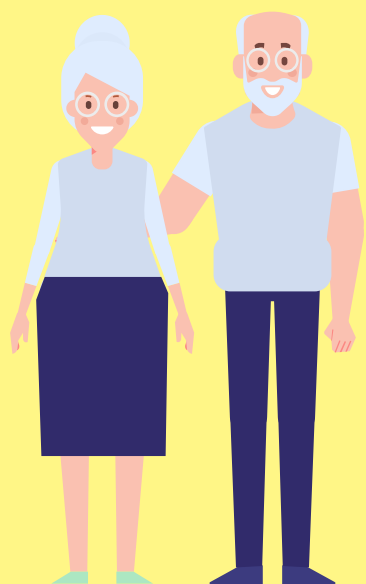
- Do all we can to regain fish and seafood markets and opportunities and press for the full allocation of £62m of marine funding Scotland is entitled to.
- Create an explicit economic link between catching and landing, incentivising landing more fish in Scotland creating more jobs and business opportunities onshore, especially in processing.
- New £15m fund to support food processing and manufacture to develop local supply chains and transition to low or zero carbon operations.
- Introduce a Good Food Nation Bill creating a single independent Scottish Food agency to promote food, drink and horticulture, and attract investment, boost processing capacity, supply chains and infrastructure.



SUPPORTING THE WELLBEING OF OUR OLDER PEOPLE

Our Older People contribute so much to our society - working, volunteering, caring for family and friends, contributing to the community around them. When they need support, it's our responsibility to make sure that services reflect them, their needs and wants.

Part of that is about ensuring that healthcare and social care are joined up, fair and equitable. **In addition to a 20% increase in frontline NHS spending, we'll create a new National Care Service backed with a 25% increase in social care spend. We'll also scrap non-residential care charges** - covering things such as community alarms, lunch clubs and supported living assistance, and prescriptions will remain free in Scotland under the SNP.



In the last Parliament, MSPs voted unanimously to remove the cost barrier for women, to period products. I'm aware that there is a similar issue for those who need incontinence products - both older and younger people - and, if I'm re-elected, **I want to work with colleagues to identify if we can make a similar commitment to free incontinence products**, beyond those that are already prescribed by GPs, with the Borders as a potential pilot area.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's the importance of staying connected with others and the world around us - both for our physical and mental health. Whether it's investing in bus services; bringing ScotRail back into public hands; or supporting digital inclusion through the £48m 'Connecting Scotland' programme, **our aim is to reduce isolation and boost social mobility.**



 Promoted by Elaine Thornton-Nicol, on behalf of Paul Wheelhouse, both at PO Box 13636, Melrose, TD6 6BL. Printed by Bordersprint Ltd, Unit 3, Haining Studios, Selkirk, TD7 5LR.

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THURSDAY 6TH MAY | #BOTHVOTESSNP

Hello,

In my first leaflet and my election address (both available on my website), I talked about some of the things that my team and I have achieved for the Scottish Borders over the last decade. I spoke about the challenges that lie ahead and the need for strong leadership and bold ideas - and I set out why my track record as an MSP and as a Government Minister means that I can and will be that strong voice for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire. Now I want to talk about some of the ambitious and innovative policies that we believe can make a genuine difference to Borderers and people across Scotland.

I've spoken before about the debt of gratitude that we owe to all those working in the NHS and to those volunteers who have helped out as local vaccinators. At the time of writing, we have over 60% of the adult population vaccinated - myself included. NHS Staff have been incredible, and they have been resolute against COVID. That's why we've proposed a 4% pay rise, compared to 1% in England. It's why we're committing to a £10bn investment programme to refurbish hospitals across the country, including our very own Borders General Hospital; and, over the next Parliament, we will increase NHS spending by £2.5bn over inflation. Our NHS needs and deserves some TLC, and that's exactly what we'll give it.

The pandemic has also impacted hugely on businesses, and especially our high streets. From the end of April, businesses will start to receive 'restart grants' worth between £7,000 and £19,500 to help with preparations to reopen but, if re-elected, we'll introduce a new £10m Scotland Loves Local fund to help revitalise high streets impacted by the pandemic, in addition to £275m for community-led regeneration and our town centres. That alongside a £20m Rural Entrepreneurs' Fund and £50m Women's Business Centre championing new start-ups and injecting life back into the Scottish economy.

I'm excited to share some of the bold new ideas that we have to drive our economic recovery, invest in our people, and build a fairer country. For strong, experienced leadership and an innovative platform for change - vote for both me and the SNP on the 6th May, and let's build a better Borders, together.

Yours,


SCOTLAND'S FUTURE SCOTLAND'S CHOICE





CLLR CLAIR RAMAGE | HAWICK

"What are the qualities that you look for in an MSP? Honest, caring and works hard for all the people that he represents, irrespective of their political views. That is Paul Wheelhouse.

"Throughout my 4 years as an SNP SBC councillor Paul has been easily accessible to give advice or information from Scottish Government that has supported my role in the community, no matter what time night or day. The current projects that are underway in Hawick, funded by the Scottish Government, the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme, the Hawick Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and the new business units at the old Armstrong site have been supported and brought to reality by Paul Wheelhouse and the Scottish Government.

"Lastly I sit on the committee for the Campaign for Border Rail and know that Paul and the Scottish Government is totally supportive of the extension of this railway to Carlisle, unlike a previous Tory MSP."

DR MALCOLM MORRISON | BOWDEN

"Not only will he continue to be an excellent and hard-working MSP for his constituents' local interests, but his background and expertise in economics, education, and energy, will be invaluable in Parliament as we enter the crucial phase of post-Covid recovery in Scotland."



DR CLIFF SHARP | RETIRED MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST SERVING PEOPLE WITH NHS BORDERS FOR 25 YEARS

"The SNP government has protected and developed our Scottish NHS, funding and improving cancer and mental health services in the Borders and overseeing the most successful vaccination programme in history. Please give them both votes and protect your NHS!"



INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the next five years, we intend to invest over £33bn in our National Infrastructure Mission, supporting an estimated 45,000 jobs and boosting Scottish supply chains.

Our Strategic Transport Projects Review - due by the end of this year - includes consideration of 21 potential improvements across South Scotland, covering road, rail, bus and active travel; and our manifesto commits to improving links to Carlisle, supported by the £5m feasibility study to allow for the extension of the Borders Railway for the benefit of local communities. I will campaign to restore services to Hawick and Newcastleton at every opportunity, just as I did to ensure Reston and East Linton were reconnected to the East Coast Main Line. Construction is underway at Reston with services due to resume in early 2022 and I'll work closely with RAGES to ensure that they are as extensive as possible and meet the needs of the community. We'll also:

- Establish a Community Bus Fund to support & expand local provision. I'm keen to use that to increase the range of bus routes available in the Borders.
Invest £500m in bus infrastructure and extend the free bus pass to under 22s.
Bring ScotRail back into public ownership.
Provide £85m for the Borderlands Growth Deal.
Complete the £91m Hawick Flood Protection Scheme, including its active travel network.
Continue the rollout of our £133m 'R100' investment in gigabit speed, full fibre broadband for the remaining 21,000 premises across South Scotland by 2023.

INVESTING IN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

I will seek to push for further investment in the school estate in the constituency, with a particular focus on ensuring Hawick and Selkirk High Schools are next in line for any new funding, alongside targeted investment in local primaries.

Our young people mustn't have their life chances damaged by this pandemic, so targeted help is crucial, such as the Young Persons Guarantee of a place at university or college, an apprenticeship or place in employment or volunteering for every 16-24 year old. However, college participation is hampered by the inequality of transport access to further and higher education provision in communities at a distance from Galashiels. I will explore how we can use digital technology to create local access for students at Borders College and other providers, learning from work I did helping establish the University of the Highlands and Islands. Other commitments in our manifesto include:

- Free breakfast and lunch for all primary age children, all year round.
£12m for Scottish Borders Council to implement 1,140 hours of free childcare from August '21 (up from 412 hrs in 2007).
Double the Scottish Child Payment to £1,040 per eligible child, per year.
Scrap Council Tax for under 22s.
Introduce a system of wraparound childcare, before and after school, all year round.
£2bn in a Learning Estate Investment Programme - in partnership with local government.



INVESTING IN THE COVID RECOVERY

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed underlying, deep-rooted inequalities across the UK. Having seen those inequalities, and their impacts, and, given the climate emergency necessitates huge cuts to global greenhouse gas emissions, we simply cannot go back to "business as usual". We need to choose the correct kind of recovery - one built on fairness and opportunity, but also sustainability and kindness - something society needs more of. We need to value sectors like health and social care and investment in the sector is a high priority, including mental health services.

- £275m over five years to support community-led regeneration and town centre revitalisation.
A £20m Rural Entrepreneurs' Fund to support 2,000 new businesses with grants of up to £10,000 each.
Investing £1.6bn in heat and energy efficiency, and £180m in emerging energy technologies like hydrogen.
Invest £1bn in the new Scottish National Investment Bank.
Full year of 100% non-domestic rates relief.
New Women's Business Centre with a budget of £50m over five years to boost entrepreneurship among women.
£50m Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme to add to £13.5m support for the third sector to recover and transition from the pandemic.
£100m Green Jobs Fund to grow new, green jobs.

VIEW OUR MANIFESTO | WWW.WHEELHOUSE.SCOT/DOWNLOADS

Grid of manifesto items including: Establish a National Care Service, Double the Scottish Child Payment to £1,040 per year, 4% pay rise for NHS staff, A new cancer diagnostic centre in every health board area, £50m women's business centre, Bring ScotRail into public hands, £100m for 'Equally Safe' strategy, £60m to renew every play park in Scotland, £10bn investment in the NHS estate, Free breakfast & lunch for primary school children, £20m rural entrepreneurs' fund, 100,000 new homes by 2032.

Ballot box information for Paul Wheelhouse (SNP) and Scottish National Party (SNP) with symbols and names.

POLLING PLACES OPEN FROM 7am - 10pm

*Postal ballots must be with the Council by 10pm on polling day - so return it early or take it (completed) to your normal polling station on the day.