

The Conservative Party's General Election Manifesto

2017



“Our Plan for a Stronger Britain...”

“We will emerge from Brexit, able to take a lead in the world to defend Britain's interests”

Britain at home

Economic principles

Continuation of **Fiscal Rules**: aim for a **balanced budget by 2025**

A modern **Industrial Strategy** to promote **industries of strategic value** through policies on trade, tax, infrastructure, skills, and R&D

£23bn National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) targeted at: housing, R&D, economic infrastructure and skills

Meet OECD average for **investment in R&D** within ten years (2.4% of GDP)

Creation of **UK sovereign wealth funds**, using revenues from shale gas extraction, dormant assets, and sale of public assets

Create a **United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund**, designed to reduce inequalities between communities across the four nations

Strengthen regulators to tackle markets not working for consumers

Corporate governance

Tighten rules to **safeguard pensions from business owners**

Update rules that govern mergers and takeovers: require bidders to be clear about their intentions from the outset; all promises and undertakings made in the course of takeover bids can be legally enforced afterwards; government can require a bid to be paused

Executive pay packages subject to strict annual votes by shareholders; listed companies will have to publish the ratio of executive pay to broader workforce pay; review of the use of share buybacks

Listed companies required to **ensure employee interests are represented at board level**

Taxation and welfare

Continuation of **tax** policy: increase personal allowance to £12,500 by 2020; reduce corporation tax to 17% by 2020; no VAT increase; simplification of the tax system for self-employed

Longer-term **business rate reforms** incl. more frequent revaluations and review of effects on online retail operations

National Living Wage to increase to **60% of median earnings** by 2020

Protections for **gig economy workers**, informed by the impending Taylor Review

Tougher **regulation of tax advisory firms**

New **double lock pension** to be introduced from 2020

Democratic reform and public services

Government procurement: 33% of central gov. purchasing to come from SMEs by 2022; suppliers must comply with Prompt Payment Code

Local growth: local industrial strategies; legislative footing for LEPs; additional growth funding

Support creation of additional combined authorities with **mayors**, but not in rural areas

City deals for regions in **Scotland and Wales**

Protect **Northern Ireland's** interests as UK leaves the EU

Move **civil servants** out of London

Continue **boundary review** and **repeal Fixed-term Parliament Act**

Digital government and public services: use data and digital technology to transform school choice, local services and issues incl. planning and social care

“We need to make the most of our existing strengths”

“We will get on with the job”

“We will be driven by the interests of ordinary, working class families”

“We will stand up to those in a position of power who abuse that privilege”

“Bring prosperity to the whole of our country”

Britain in the world

Brexit

Deep and special partnership with the EU: secure rights of UK citizens in EU and EU citizens in Europe; maintain Common Travel Area and frictionless as possible border with RoI; workers' rights will remain; comprehensive free trade and customs agreement; continued security and science and innovation collaboration; protect Gibraltar; final agreement subject to parliamentary vote; fair settlement of the UK's rights and obligations as a departing member state; agree terms of future partnership and withdrawal within 2 years

Introduce **Great Repeal Bill**

Establish **common UK frameworks** to ensure that devolution of power does not create new barriers to business within UK union

Establish **clear statutory footing for UK authorities** to exercise powers currently exercised through EU law and institutions

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights will not be brought into UK law

Reduce immigration to tens of thousands; Migration Advisory Committee to recommend how **visa system** can become **better aligned** with the **modern Industrial Strategy**; double the **Immigration Skills Charge** to £2,000 a year by 2022

Set up **new frameworks to support farming and fishing** as the UK leaves the EU, including maintaining the same total cash support for agriculture throughout the next parliament.

International Trade

New Trade Bill

Nine **new regional overseas posts**

Reconvene the **Board of Trade**

Focus on **new high-growth markets**

More **support for British consortia** seeking to win global contracts

Global Collaboration

Continue role in key **international organisations**: UN and the UN Security Council; NATO; the Commonwealth; the G20; G7; WTO

Develop **alliances** and co-operate more with old friends and new partners: build on **US special relationship**; strengthen close links with **Commonwealth allies**

Maintain commitment to spend **0.7% of gross national income on aid**

Significantly increase funding of **UK-led medical and technical research** into **global threats**

Work with like-minded countries to change **international definitions of development assistance**

Spend at least **2% of GDP on defence**

“We will be resolute in defending our country”

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"...and a Prosperous Future"

Housing & Construction

Meet 2015 target to deliver 1 million homes by end of 2020; deliver half a million more by 2022

Deliver Housing White Paper reforms

New Council Housing Deals for pro-development local authorities, providing them with significant low-cost capital funding; new fixed-term social houses to be sold privately after 10 to 15 years with automatic Right to Buy for tenants

Reform Compulsory Purchase Orders to make them easier and cheaper for councils to use

Crack down on unfair practices in leasehold; improve protections for those who rent, including by looking at how we increase security for good tenants and encouraging landlords to offer longer tenancies as standard

Upgrade all fuel poor homes to energy efficiency EPC Band C by 2030

Transport and Infrastructure

Strengthen ministerial scrutiny and control over foreign ownership of companies controlling critical national infrastructure

Largest investment in railways since Victorian times; invest £1.1bn to improve local transport

Take forward Sir John Parker's review of shipbuilding

Continue programme of strategic investments: HS2; Heathrow; Northern Powerhouse Rail

Develop strategic road network

Lead the world in electric vehicle technology, with £600m investment by 2020

Review rail ticketing, removing complex pricing; introduce a passenger ombudsman

Agree minimum service levels with train companies during periods of industrial dispute

Health, Food & Pharmaceuticals

Increase NHS spending by a minimum of £8bn in real terms over the next five years

Increase the Immigration Health Surcharge

Implement the recommendations of the Accelerated Access Review

Review operation of the NHS internal market by 2018

Support life sciences research, maintaining European hub status

Reform social care for the elderly: align means testing for domiciliary care with that for residential care; introduce a £100,000 single capital floor; extend freedom to defer payments for residential care to those receiving care at home

Mental Health Bill

Improve patients' access and ability to update aspects of care records, as well as control over personal data use

Patients to receive definitive cancer diagnosis within 28 days by 2020

Education

Larger, aggregated investment funds for universities

£250m in skills by end of 2020

Lift ban on grammar schools; review of school admissions policy

Increase schools budget by £4bn by 2022; fairer funding reforms

Scrap free school lunches for first three years of primary school and introduce free breakfasts for all primary school pupils

Improve technical education, with major review of funding

Allow large firms to pass apprenticeship levy funds to small firms in supply chain

Introduce right to request leave for training for workers

Launch new Institutes of Technology specialising in STEM

Financial Services

Ambition for all routine consumer banking services to be available in rural post offices

"Breathing Space" scheme: up to six weeks protection period for people in serious debt

Help start-ups: encourage early stage investment and consider further incentives through Enterprise Investment Scheme and Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme

Open new offices of the British Business Bank in Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester and Newport, and fund it with repatriated funds from European Investment Fund

Technology, Media and Telecommunications

£740 million investment in digital infrastructure

Make billing for telecoms customers fairer and easier to understand; 95% mobile coverage by 2022 with all major road and rail lines covered; release spectrum; begin the roll-out of a new 5G network, with the majority of the population covered by 2027

High speed broadband in every home and business by 2020

Oblige digital companies to provide digital receipts, clearer terms and conditions, and support digital proofs of identification

Improvements in online safety

Continue with £1.9bn investment in cyber security and delivery of cyber security strategy

Establish a regulatory framework for data ethics

New power to introduce a levy on social media companies and communication service providers to counter internet harms

Abandon second stage of Leveson Inquiry

Channel 4 to remain publicly owned and be relocated out of London

Leisure, Hospitality & Gambling

New cultural development fund

2018 Great Exhibition of the North

Support UK city bid for 2022 Commonwealth Games

Maintain free museum entry

Support 70th anniversary of Edinburgh Festival

Energy & Environment

Independent review into the Cost of Energy

Energy bills: introduce a safeguard tariff cap that will extend the price protection currently in place for some vulnerable customers to more customers on the poorest value tariffs; support initiatives to make the switching process easier

Ensure rollout of smart meters by 2020

Industrial energy efficiency scheme

Support a diverse range of reliable and affordable energy sources which help meet carbon goals and create industrial opportunities, including offshore but not onshore wind

Support for oil and gas sector

Change planning law to support shale gas extraction; establish new Shale Environmental Regulator

Plant an extra 1 million trees

New powers to force councils to remove roadside litter and prosecute offenders

Improve natural flood managements

Free vote on fox hunting

Comprehensive 25 year environmental plan

"A Conservative Government will act in the interests of customers"

"We need to harness the power of technology, whilst ensuring our security and privacy are protected"

"Making Britain the world's great Meritocracy"

"We need to respond to the reality of an ageing society"

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An ideological comparison of policies under May and Cameron

