

# General Election 2024: A summary of manifestos for Local Authorities

We set out below the key pledges from the major UK political parties and what this means for Local Authorities.

| Areas          | Conservatives  | Labour   | Liberal Democrats   | Green Party  | Reform UK  |
|----------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Economy</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local authorities and NHS trust and companies benefitting from government contracts to ensure procurement opportunities are focussed on SMEs in their local economies</li> <li>• Simplifying the planning system to make it easier to build faster</li> <li>• By July 2026, repeal or reform over half of the entire stock of EU law inherited</li> </ul> | <p>Overhaul the business rates system and replace it with one that would “<i>raise the same revenue but in fairer way</i>”. Labour has said this will incentivise the high street, but has yet to provide further details.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in renewable power and home insulation to bring down energy bills</li> <li>• Helping people back to work, supporting small businesses</li> <li>• Invest in green infrastructure to tackle the climate crisis</li> <li>• Tax policy to tax big banks / oil and gas</li> <li>• Working with devolved administrations to develop joint policies and partnerships</li> <li>• Setting a UK wide target for digital literacy</li> </ul> | <p>Undertake a survey of all landholdings to pave the way for fair taxation of land.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lift the income tax start point to £20,000 per year</li> <li>• Reforms to benefit support and training to return two million people back into work</li> <li>• Replace the 2010 <i>Equalities Act</i></li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>Communities and Local Authority</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide 105 towns with £20million fund for local people to revive the high street or bring new housing to town centres</li> <li>• Change planning laws to support places to bring back local market days and regenerate defunct shopping centres</li> <li>• By 2030 every part of England that wants a devolution deal will have one</li> <li>• Invest £4.7bn for smaller cities, towns and rural areas in the North and Midlands to spend on transport priorities</li> <li>• Local authorities to be given a multi-year funding settlement to support social care</li> <li>• Single sex services and single sex spaces to be</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give local authorities multi-year funding settlements and end competitive bidding</li> <li>• Provide capacity and support to local authorities</li> <li>• Improve the audit system</li> <li>• Encourage wider devolution</li> <li>• New statutory requirement for local growth plans to align with National Industrial Strategy</li> <li>• Review governance arrangements for combined authorities</li> </ul> | <p>Provide multi-year settlements, boosting the supply of social housing, and forging a long-term, cross-party agreement on social care.</p> |  | <p>Cut the remaining 6,700 EU laws.</p> |
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| <p><b>Business and Jobs</b></p> | <p>provided for in healthcare settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reforms of the welfare system to unlock the potential of millions of people to give them the support to get them into work</li> <li>Tougher sanction rules that where people refuse to take up suitable jobs after 12 months on benefits can have their benefits removed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the AI sector</li> <li>Simplify the procurement process to support innovation and reduce micromanagement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring down trade barriers</li> <li>Invest in training and education by increasing the availability of apprenticeships</li> <li>Boost productivity by encouraging parents, carers and disabled people to enter the job market</li> <li>Abolish business rates and replacing them with a Commercial Landowner Levy to help high streets</li> <li>Create a clear, workable well-resourced cross-sectoral regulatory framework for AI. Work with the US and EU to play a leading role in global AI regulation</li> <li>Establish a new Worker Protection Enforcement Authority unifying responsibilities currently</li> </ul> | <p>Workers to have full employment rights from day one.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise National Insurance rate to 20% for foreign workers with national insurance to remain at 13.8% for British citizens (essential foreign health and care workers to be exempt from this)</li> <li>Lift the Income Tax Start point to £20,000 Per Year</li> </ul> |
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|   |  |   | spread across three agencies   |  |   |
| <b>Climate Change, Energy and the Environment</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parties commitment to achieving net zero by 2050 maintained</li> <li>Helped public projects procure more UK made steel (Tata Steel). Continue to do this</li> <li>Doubling of capital funding into flood defences in England</li> <li>Triple offshore wind</li> <li>Driving licence points for fly tippers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£2.5bn to rebuild the steel industry</li> <li>Warm Homes Plan will offer grants and low interest loans to support investment in insulation and other improvements such as solar panels</li> <li>Number of green energy measures including a new state owned energy company, Great British Energy</li> <li>A wealth fund to pay for decarbonisation of heavy industry</li> <li>End to new drilling licences in the North Sea</li> <li>Restore the original 2030 date on the ban of sale of new petrol or</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 year emergency upgrade programme to make homes warmer and cheaper to heat</li> <li>Appoint a Chief Secretary for Sustainability in the Treasury and establish a new Net Zero Delivery Authority to hand more resources and power to local councils for local net zero strategies. Pledged to achieve net zero by 2040</li> <li>Require all homes and non-domestic buildings to be built to a zero-carbon standard including being fitted with solar panels</li> <li>Require LL to have an EPC of C or above by 2028</li> <li>Transform water companies into public benefit companies</li> <li>Introduce a sewage tax on water company profits</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase DEFRA budget by £1.5bn allowing an increase in funding for the Environment Agency and Natural England</li> <li>Railways, water and energy companies to be brought back into public ownership</li> <li>Pledged to achieve net zero by 2035</li> <li>70% of power to come from wind by 2030</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Scrap net zero” within the first 100 days of Parliament</li> <li>Cut energy taxes and scrap VAT on energy bills</li> <li>Scrap £10billion of renewable energy subsidies</li> <li>Accelerate transport infrastructure</li> </ul> |

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|                |   | <p>diesel cars (presently Conservatives have delayed the date to 2035)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double onshore wind by 2030</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the powers of local authorities to monitor the health of the rivers, lakes and coastlines</li> <li>• Implement Schedule 3 of the <i>Flood and Water Management Act</i> to require sustainable drainage systems in new developments</li> <li>• Ensure new developments result in significant net gain for biodiversity – planning</li> </ul> |   |   |
| <b>Housing</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abolish SDLT for houses up to £424,000 for first time buyers</li> <li>• Unlock new urban regeneration schemes – new quarters in Leeds, Liverpool and York</li> <li>• Requiring councils to set aside land for local and smaller builders and lifting section 106 burdens on smaller sites</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning reform to build 1.5 million new homes</li> <li>• Restore mandatory housing targets</li> <li>• Support local authorities by funding additional planning officers</li> <li>• Give combined authorities new planning powers along with new freedoms and flexibilities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the building of social homes by 150,000 a year</li> <li>• Ban no-fault evictions and making three year tenancies the default</li> <li>• Give local authorities the right to end Right to Buy in their areas</li> <li>• Abolish residential leaseholds and capping ground rents to a nominal fee</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide 150,000 new social homes a year and end Right to Buy</li> <li>• Empower local authorities to introduce rent controls</li> <li>• End no fault evictions (s21 of <i>Housing Act 1988</i>)</li> <li>• Transform the planning system so new developments come with access to public services and protect green spaces</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut SDLT on residential houses to 0% below £750k and 2% from £750k -£1.5m and 4% over £1.5m</li> <li>• Reform the planning system to fast track housing on brownfield sites</li> <li>• Reform social housing law to prioritise local people and those who</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure local authorities use the new Infrastructure Levy to deliver GP surgeries, roads and other local infrastructure to support homes</li> <li>• Legislate for a new Local Connection and UK Connection test for social housing</li> <li>• Implement a three strikes and you're out for anti-social behaviour – evicting tenants whose behaviour is disruptive</li> <li>• Protect Right to Buy</li> <li>• Complete the process of leasehold reform. Cap ground rent at £250 and reducing them to peppercorn over time. End the misuse of forfeiture</li> </ul> | <p>to make better use of grant funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately abolish s21 of <i>Housing Act 1988</i>, no fault evictions</li> <li>• Bring the leasehold system to an end. Banning new leasehold flats and ensure commonhold is the default tenure</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow councils to buy land for housing based on current use value rather than on a hope-value basis by reforming the <i>Land Compensation Act 1961</i></li> <li>• Fund local planning departments to improve planning outcomes and ensure housing is not built in areas of high flood risk without adequate mitigation, by allowing local authorities to set their own fees</li> <li>• Encourage development of existing brownfield sites with financial incentives and ensuring that affordable and social housing is included in these projects</li> <li>• Introduce <i>'use-it-or-lose-it'</i> planning permission for developers who refuse to build</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change building regulations so that all new homes meet the Passivhaus or equivalent</li> <li>• Over the next five years insulate homes to EPC B standard or above</li> <li>• £4bn over the next five years to insulate public buildings to a high standard (mainly schools and hospitals)</li> <li>• End to competitive bidding for the social housing</li> <li>• Power to local authorities to control rents</li> <li>• Introduce legislation to give local authorities, registered social landlords and community housing grounds the first option to buy certain properties at reasonable rates</li> </ul> | <p>have paid into the system. Foreign nationals <i>"to go to the back of the queue"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abolish the <i>Renters' (Reform) Bill</i></li> <li>• Ensure it is easier and cheaper to extend leases to 990 years and buy freeholds</li> </ul> |
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- Abolish s21 of the *Housing Act 1988*
- Speed up the use and enforcement of powers to remove illegal traveller sites

- Put the construction sector on a sustainable footing by investing in skills, training and new technologies such as modern methods of construction
- Remove dangerous cladding from all buildings, while ensuring that leaseholders do not have to pay a penny towards it
- Help people who cannot afford a deposit to own their own homes by introducing a new Rent to Own model for social housing where rent payments give tenants an increasing stake in the property, owning it outright after 30 years
- Give local authorities new powers to control second homes and short-term lets in their areas

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## Health

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruit 92,000 new nurses and 28,000 new doctors. New and modernised GP surgeries and more Community Diagnostic Centres</li><li>• Build or modernise 250 GP surgeries and 50 more Community Diagnostic Centres</li><li>• Continue to deliver 40 new hospitals by 2030</li><li>• Further reforms to the dental contract</li><li>• Pay comprehensive compensation to those infected by the blood scandal with a further £210,000 interim payment to living infected beneficiaries</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce a fit for the future fund to double the number of CT and MRI scanners</li><li>• Committed to delivering the New Hospitals Programme</li><li>• Reform the dental contract</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everyone to have the right to see a GP within seven days or 24 hours if in an emergency. Increase the number of GPs by 8000</li><li>• Establish a Strategic Small Surgeries Fund to sustain services in rural and remote areas</li><li>• Access to NHS dentist for everyone in an emergency</li><li>• Bring private dentists back to the NHS by fixing broken NHS dental contract</li><li>• Establish mental health hubs</li><li>• Work towards a sustainable long term funding model for pharmacies</li><li>• Establish Health Creation Unit in the Cabinet Office to lead work across government</li><li>• Retaining more staff in the NHS via a staff retention plan</li><li>• Making flexible working a day one right</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restore local council budgets for public health</li><li>• Two billion capital investment in primary care over the next five years and 3bn a year in dentistry by 2030</li><li>• New contract for NHS dentists</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All frontline NHS and social care staff to pay zero basic rate tax for three years</li><li>• Tax Relief of 20% on all Private Healthcare and Insurance</li><li>• Write off student fees pro rata per year over 10 years of NHS service for all doctors, nurses and medical staff</li><li>• New NHS Voucher Scheme - NHS Patients will receive a voucher for private treatment if they can't see a GP within three days or see a consultant within three weeks. For an operation, nine weeks</li></ul> |
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|      |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a 10 year plan to invest in hospitals and primary care estate to end the scandal of crumbling roofs, dangerous concrete and life expired buildings</li> <li>• Implement the changes of the infected blood inquiry scandal. Full and fair compensation</li> <li>• Introduce independent complaints process for reports of sexual misconduct in the NHS</li> <li>• End the GMCs five year rule which prevents patients from raising complaints after five years</li> <li>• Enable patients to leave the hospital when they no longer need to be there by investing in social care</li> </ul> |                   |   |
| Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand coverage of mental health support teams from 50% to</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase transparency on how money is spent on social care by local authorities</li> </ul>   | Free social care. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Work Capability</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>100% of schools and colleges in England by 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the planned expansion of NHS talking therapies by 50%</li><li>• Continue to invest in social care</li><li>• Give local authorities a multi-year settlement for social care</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trial neighbourhood health centres</li><li>• Create a National Care Service to support people to live independently for as long as possible</li><li>• Develop a local partnership working between the NHS and social care on hospital discharge</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give Local Authorities extra funding to reduce the amount that schools pay towards the cost of a child's education, health and care plan for children in special education</li><li>• Give local authorities with responsibility for education the powers and resources to act as Strategic Education Authorities for their area, including responsibility for places planning, exclusions, administering admissions including in-year admissions, and SEND functions</li><li>• Review further education funding, including the option of exempting colleges from VAT</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring together local authorities, trade unions and private providers to establish a career structure for carers</li><li>• Additional £3bn to be provided for local authorities to enable them to provide high quality children's social care</li></ul> | <p>Assessment will be held face to face and will require independent medical assessments (exceptions for those with severe disabilities or long term illnesses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commence Royal Commission of Inquiry into Social Care System</li><li>• Simplify social care through a single funding stream, instead of the split between NHS and local authorities</li><li>• Stop larger care home providers from avoiding tax by having complex offshore property company structures and high interest shareholder loans</li></ul> |
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| <b>Education and Families</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The re-building of 500 schools through the School Re-building Programme</li> <li>• National service is to be introduced</li> <li>• 30 hours of free child care from when the child is 9 months old</li> <li>• Reinventing national service</li> <li>• Introduction of an advanced British Standard for 16-19 education</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit 6,500 new expert teachers in key subjects</li> <li>• Enhancing the inspection regime</li> <li>• 3000 new primary school based nurseries</li> <li>• Free breakfast clubs in every primary school</li> <li>• Limit the number of branded items of uniform and PE kits</li> <li>• End the VAT exemption and business rates relief for private schools</li> <li>• High quality apprenticeships and specialised technical colleges</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure every secondary school child is taught by a specialist teacher in their subject</li> <li>• Give local authorities powers and resources to act as strategic education authorities for their area</li> <li>• Review further education funding including the option of exempting colleges from VAT</li> <li>• Make all parental pay and leave day-one rights, including for adoptive parents and kinship carers, and extending them to self-employed parents</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1.4bn to be invested by local authorities into Sure Start Centres</li> <li>• Ensure that every school building is safe by investing £2.5bn a year to tackle the RAAC concrete scandal</li> <li>• Protect school playing fields from development</li> <li>• Enable local authorities to maintain key sporting infrastructure including pools and playing fields</li> </ul> | <p>When finances allow, introduce a UK 25% transferable marriage tax allowance which means no tax on the first £25,000 of income for either spouse.</p>    |
| <b>Transport</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest £36bn in roads, rail and buses</li> <li>• Review the London Mayor's ULEZ expansion and apply local referendum to the</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a 10 year infrastructure strategy aligned with industrial strategy and regional development priorities</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give local authorities more powers to franchise services and simplifying funding, so that bus routes can be restored or new routes added</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local authority control and funding for bus services</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerate Transport Infrastructure by focusing on coastal regions, Wales, the North, and the Midlands</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>new 20mph zones and low traffic neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extend the £2 bus fare cap in England for the entirety of the next parliament</li><li>• Allow motorcycles in all bus lanes and reform licencing</li><li>• Simplify paying for parking</li><li>• Introduce the Rail Reform Bill – see Kings Speech</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve rail connectivity across the North</li><li>• Improve the planning regime in relation to Transport</li><li>• The policy programme mentions gradual rail nationalisation “<i>without costing taxpayers a penny</i>”. A new authority, Great British Railways, would be created which would incorporate Network Rail and gradually take over the running of train services</li></ul> | <p>where there is local need, especially in rural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give more of the roads budget to local councils to maintain existing roads, pavements and cycleways, including repairing potholes</li><li>• Establish a new Railway Agency</li><li>• Devolve greater decision-making powers and resources to local authorities in England to design public transport infrastructure around community needs, including powers to introduce network-wide ticketing as in London</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Efficient publically owned railway with affordable fares</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch a new model that brings 50% of each utility into public ownership. The other 50% would be owned by UK pension funds</li></ul> |
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## How Capsticks can help

Our specialist local government advice is cost-effective and strategic, complemented by practical knowledge of your daily challenges. Capsticks aims to be the firm of choice for organisations working within the local government sector, offering a full range of services including advising on governance, applying for and delivering large regeneration projects, updating constitutional documents, refresher procurement training and support in preparing for an upcoming employment tribunal.

We will be keeping up to date on all developments throughout the General Election and will be providing further updates on any new policies by the newly elected government.

If you have any queries around what's discussed in this article, or would like further advice on how to upcoming elections will affect you, please speak to Tiffany Cloynes, Rebecca Gilbert or Chantal Davison.

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