

# Policies for a Sustainable Society in Wales

## 1. Policy Context and Finding Solutions

PC 100: The basis for meeting policy challenges: The policies in this document are presented as responses to a situation of multiple linked crises for our societies. Here we give an overview how these interact and explain how we draw on Green values, perspectives and insights to meet these linked challenges, with joined-up solutions.

### **Policy Context: the linked challenges of our time**

PC 101: System Change: Looking at all the huge problems in our world it is easy to be overwhelmed, but Greens see all these different areas as linked, and the solutions as systemic. This is why we call for system change, and develop policies that are complementary, that together can add up to make the changes that so many of us now recognise we need in our world.

PC 102: Possibility and Hope: Responses to the COVID pandemic have shown that societies, and governments are capable of rapid and massive change. This experience has also shown that people and communities can be powerful, resilient and re-think social priorities in times of crisis. In responding to the huge problems outlined below hope lies in making real change.

### **Climate Emergency, Biodiversity Collapse and Inequality**

PC 103: Climate Emergency: Climate change is happening much faster than many predicted and dangerous climate change is already with us globally and locally. The evidence is overwhelming. Wales is already experiencing serious effects, with floods, droughts, coastal erosion and destructive winds. More detail is set out in the dedicated section below, and our solutions are presented across the policy topics in this document.

PC 104: Biodiversity Collapse: The collapse of biodiversity and the devastating decline in number of birds, mammals, and insects is also sounding the alarm about this silent crisis of loss of living systems. This is linked to climate change as the ways we produce our food and use our land contribute at least half of all climate-changing emissions, and are devastating to the natural world.

PC 105: Rising Inequality: Our dominant economic and social system is producing a rising inequality crisis. The system is making the rich 1% even richer but creating decline and devastation for our societies. Greens see the connections between extraction from nature and from society and propose economic and social measures to correct this inequality, leaving no-one behind.

PC 106: Vulnerability and Resilience: The pandemic has revealed some of the key vulnerabilities in our society in Wales and beyond. Looking to the future, we know that our societies are going to need to be more resilient to respond to shocks. Even if we take urgent action now, we will still be faced with a period of great disruption and uncertainty. Building resilience is linked with taking action to improve equality and to build robust services and the foundation economy on which we all rely.

PC 107: Change local-to-global: We believe that we have to take urgent action in Wales and this means changing our lives, our habits and our economy and our relations with others to build a fairer and sustainable society. We have many assets in Wales on which we can build a better society, we can also be a lead small nation in the wider global changes underway.

PC 108: Re-engaging Politics: We believe that Green representatives in politics can help provide good frameworks for change. However, the extent of the changes we need can only be achieved by the re-engagement of people in politics, where we decide together how to make the changes we need. This is why we have put co-production at the heart of all our policies and why we propose to reinvigorate democracy at all levels.

## **Philosophical Basis**

PB 100: The Philosophical Basis of the Green Party of England & Wales sets down the aims and beliefs of the party, and is the basis on which all its policies are founded. This document can be found at: [policy.greenparty.org.uk/philosophical-basis.html](http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/philosophical-basis.html).

PB 101: It outlines a radical Green agenda to achieve the changes in both values and lifestyles, as well as social, economic and political structures, that are required to create a fair and sustainable society, based on cooperation and democracy rather than inequality and exploitation.

PB 102: It advocates:

- diversity in the human and natural environment, where human activities contribute to, rather than destroy, the richness of life;
- social change for real democracy and equality based on any of the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion, belief and non-belief, sex, sexual orientation, human rights and freedom;
- valuing real wealth – natural resources, clean air, rainfall, our abundant sources of renewable energy and the planet's biodiversity. Wealth should be shared so everyone has a guarantee of economic security;
- conservation – recognising limits to growth; promoting land management combining sustainable human development with safeguarding biodiversity; prioritising technologies that promote reuse and recycling; ensuring the built environment maximises resource conservation and energy efficiency;
- empowerment – participatory and democratic politics with accountable leadership that are consensus-driven and moral;
- property – common goods accountably managed by community stakeholders;
- work – access to creative, rewarding work as a fundamental human right;
- strategy – work for change with the wider green movement through a variety of means including non-violent direct action.

PB 103: Co-Benefits: Our policies are interlinked; they are holistic. For example, Green transport policy includes measures to reduce private car use and increase funding for public transport. This impacts on health policy, with a reduction in exhaust pollution that contributes to thousands of deaths a year and less traffic noise that affects stress and sleep quality, as well as a safer road environment leading to more people cycling and walking. This, in turn, means more people getting regular exercise, and so becoming less likely to be overweight and depressed, leading to a reduction in numerous associated healthcare problems, which will mean less stress on the NHS. A

reduction in private car use also reduces carbon emissions, tackling the major concern of climate change, and offering further positive spin-offs like helping to wean the world off fossil fuels. It's a typical Green win-win situation where changes to dramatically cut emissions also materially benefit the quality of life for the majority of people.

PB 104: Whilst the Green Party of England and Wales recognises that the environment is a first-order issue—without a healthy environment, there can be no healthy economy or healthy society—building a society fit for the future means looking beyond environmental concerns solely. A society fit for the future is one which is sustainable economically, socially and culturally as well as environmentally.

PB 105: In the Welsh context, this will require us to fulfil and build on the promise of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. We support the strengthening of this Act to ensure greater impact for sustainability. This means delivering green jobs to our cities, rural areas and austerity-hit towns alike. It means creating more equitable communities where everyone has a meaningful stake. It means celebrating our unique cultural heritage to ensure it thrives well into the future. And it means committing to supporting, reinforcing and delivering the wellbeing goals which are enshrined in Welsh law, transforming the well-meaning words of other political parties into meaningful, on-the-ground action right across Wales. This will involve re-equipping local services which have ravaged by budget cuts, but also holding them accountable to the local communities they serve.

### **Sustainable Development**

PB 200: Sustainable development means learning how to live within the Earth's finite resources whilst preserving and enriching the fabric of our society. This in turn means sharing these limited resources fairly.

PB 201: Our actions should take account of the well-being of others and of future generations. We should not pursue our well-being to the detriment of theirs. Every living creature is not just shaped by the environment, but owes its very existence to it. Humans, and the civilisations we make, are no exception.

PB 202: Respect for the environment and the diversity it harbours is therefore essential. Greens do not believe that other species are expendable. As we harm the environment, so we harm ourselves. The Earth's physical resources are finite. We threaten our future if we try to live beyond those means.

PB 203: The predicament that the natural world finds itself in has been brought sharply into focus by scientists in North America confirming that the Sixth Extinction, named the Anthropocene or 'age of man', has begun (June 2015).

PB 204: It is absolutely vital that we address this issue with extreme urgency. It has taken millions of years to create a delicate interconnected web of life on the planet which mankind itself relies upon for its own survival. By allowing the decimation of our environment we are threatening our own existence as a species.

## **Ecology and Economy**

PB 300: All human economic activity and social and cultural wellbeing are dependent upon the integrity of self-sustaining, self-managing natural systems. Continually increasing resource extraction, industrial throughput and waste production is entirely incompatible with ecological sustainability. Green economic policy must therefore promote the emergence of an economic system which recognises the limits of, and is compatible with, both the natural systems of the planet and the justifiable aspirations of the whole of humanity.

PB 301: We recognise the value that natural systems bring to the human economy, for instance flood prevention through uplands forests. We will take these ecosystem services into account when evaluating the financial validity of projects.

PB 302: To achieve global ecological sustainability, with equity and social justice, the industrialised countries must actively reduce the physical burden they place on the planet and must, by example, encourage and support the less industrialised countries in adopting appropriate development strategies. In Wales we welcome the commitment of the Welsh Government to a Wellbeing Economy, and we will work to ensure that this is fully developed, replacing GDP with more meaningful measures of social and environmental health and quality of life and changing Welsh Government strategies accordingly.

PB 303: We will facilitate the move towards the redistribution of paid time, resulting in a shorter paid working week and allowing more time for unpaid activities such as being parents, carers, and neighbours.

## **Social Justice**

PB 400: We believe in a society characterised by social justice and wellbeing for all. By sustainable social justice we mean the fair and equitable distribution of environmental, social and economic resources between people, places and generations.

PB 401: Only when released from immediate poverty can individuals be expected to take responsibility for wider issues.

PB 402: A healthy society is founded on co-operation and based on respect for all, including those with any of the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion, belief and non-belief, sex, sexual orientation. It is a society without prejudice.

## **Radical Democracy**

PB 500: Politics is too often conducted in a polarised, confrontational atmosphere and in a situation remote from those that it affects. It gives too much responsibility to a few, and too little to the many. We must develop decentralised, participative systems that encourage individuals to control the decisions which affect their own lives and localities.

PB 501: We believe that our current First Past The Post electoral system is a major contributor to the lack of engagement with democratic activity. We appreciate that the voting system for the Welsh Parliament is more representative. We will argue for further changes to make the electoral system more proportionate at each level of government and hence make each vote count as equal.

## 2. Climate and Ecological Crisis

### Background

CEC 100: Climate change is the single most significant issue facing society and that of future generations. The impacts are being felt here and now, globally and locally.

### Our house is burning

CEC 101: The Paris Agreement (COP21), set the ambition to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

CEC 102: The Climate Change Act 2008 makes it the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that the net UK carbon account for all six Kyoto greenhouse gases for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline. In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change recommended that in order to meet the commitment of the Paris Agreement, the UK Government must adopt a target of net zero greenhouse gases by 2050. The UK government in June 2019 made a commitment to update legislation to make the statutory commitment to 'net zero'.

CEC 103: Wales' commitment to renewable energy and energy conservation is embedded in The Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in Wales by at least 80% for the year 2050 with a system of interim emissions targets and carbon budgets. In June 2019, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Rural Affairs for Wales went further than this, declaring a 'climate change emergency' and calling for a 100% reduction ('net zero') by 2050. In 2017, 78% of Wales' energy generation was from Fossil Fuels. Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales, sets out a plan to deliver decarbonisation.

CEC 104: This section of policy relates to impacts on Wales and highlights areas of policy of particular relevance in the Welsh context. A more comprehensive detail on areas of UK wide and international significance are included in the EWGP PfSS.

### Vision

CEC 200: Wales Green Party's primary objective is the safeguarding of the climate, as far as possible, for future decades and generations.

CEC 201: Wales to achieve a reduction to 'net zero' of greenhouse gas emissions well in advance of the government target of 2050.

CEC 202: Wales to be a world leader in the renewable energy sector.

CEC 203: A Green New Deal for Wales could create sustainable jobs, promote community well-being and reduce impacts on the climate and natural environment.

## **Policies**

CEC 300: Following its declaration of a climate emergency, the Welsh Government should produce a Climate Crisis Action Plan setting out the bold and radical measures required to reduce Wales' greenhouse gas emissions to net zero in advance of the 2050 target.

CEC 301: Welsh Government should set annual targets for greenhouse gas emissions and report on them to the Welsh Parliament each year.

CEC 302: All local authorities in Wales should declare Climate Emergencies and work with their local communities to develop and agree Climate Crisis Action Plans that achieve a reduction to net zero emissions of other own council operations by 2030 and net zero emissions for the local authority area as a whole by 2045.

CEC 303: Welsh Government energy policy should be urgently overhauled to completely decarbonise electricity production.

CEC 304: Welsh Government policies on agriculture, forestry and rural areas to be urgently overhauled with the three aims of reducing its impact on climate change, increasing resilience to climate change effects, and increasing bio-diversity and bio- abundance.

CEC 305: Welsh Government and local authority policies on transport to be urgently overhauled to reduce its climate change impacts, including by investment in low carbon public transport and promotion of carbon neutral active travel.

CEC 306: Welsh Government and local authorities to reform planning policy and regulations to maximise reduction in climate change impacts.

CEC 307: A reduction in the consumption of animal products would have benefits for the environment, human health and animal welfare. There is evidence that large-scale animal agriculture is a significant contributor to greenhouse-gas emissions, habitat destruction, pollution and loss of biodiversity. Wales Green Party believes it is imperative to act and will actively promote an immediate transition from diets dominated by meat and other animal products to increasingly plant-based diets and to lifestyles using environmentally sustainable products derived from non-animal sources. The aim of these measures is to conserve natural resources, free up fertile land for increased production of plant-based foods and products, increase access to healthier food options, enforce animal welfare legislation and reduce animal cruelty. We will achieve this through research, education, economic measures and reformed approaches to farming.

CEC 308: Wales Green Party will ensure that high quality, nutritionally balanced vegetarian and vegan menu options are widely available and promoted in all public sector establishments such as schools, hospitals and care facilities. We shall ensure that catering and nutrition for vegetarian and

vegan diets is included in all catering certificates and that lessons in preparing nutritious vegetarian and vegan food are included in food technology courses.

## **Waste Reduction**

CEC 401: We will support the introduction of plastic free aisles in supermarkets.

CEC 402: We will ensure the replacement of single use plastic bags for fresh fruit and vegetables with recyclable alternatives in all retail outlets with no exceptions.

CEC 403: We will instigate measures ensuring the continual reduction of plastic and non-recyclable packaging used by large scale buyers be a condition of planning consent for any new supermarkets as this can have a direct impact on local recycling rates. The reductions will continue year on year until phased out completely.

CEC 404: We will promote joint working between local authorities when negotiating contracts with waste suppliers to ensure that companies that do not offer recycling of soft plastics are effectively squeezed out of the market in Wales. Contract negotiations should be 100% transparent and strictly monitored by an independent body.

CEC 405: We will introduce a charge on the use of single use cups at all coffee outlets at a rate of 20p per cup with no exceptions.

CEC 406: We will introduce a ban on the use of single use plastic straws in all catering outlets with considered and sensitive exceptions such as for those with impairments who may need to use plastic straws.

CEC 407: We will introduce a bottle return deposit scheme which will cover all plastic bottles sold within Wales of 20p a bottle with no exceptions.

## **3. Green Wellbeing Economy for Wales**

### **Vision**

GWE 100: Build Back Better is an urgent response to the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Collapse to secure the future - and this means changing the economy. Our vision is that a Green Wellbeing Economy for Wales will Build Back Better after the COVID pandemic by:

- create worthwhile jobs providing good and meaningful work across economic sectors
- support innovative new businesses with social and ecological commitments
- transition to a resilient, carbon-neutral economy in a socially just process
- move to a Regenerative Economy that supports and restores Biodiversity
- re-use and recycle our natural resources
- make secure provision for all our citizens in transition and beyond
- extend democracy into localised economic decision making

### **Main Issues and Concerns**

GWE 101: Historically, the UK has been run as a centralised economy based in the London region, creating great differentials in wealth and wellbeing by extracting wealth from its smaller nations and other English regions. The effects can be seen very clearly in Wales.

GWE 102: Many well-established Welsh industries have declined or disappeared over the last three decades following the enforced closure of mining and the effects of globalisation.

GWE 103: Unfair taxation and poor corporate governance allowed by Westminster disadvantage smaller home-grown Welsh companies.

GWE 104: The privatisation agenda of successive Conservative governments has seriously weakened public services in Wales. The pandemic has shown that the imposition of for-profit marketised models drastically reduces the resilience and response-capacity of essential public services.

GWE 105: With plans for the 'UK Internal Market', the Westminster government seeks to expose our industries, services and nature to an onslaught of deregulation designed help dodgy trade deals and to increase further corporate growth.

GWE 106: Inequality has widened across the UK, especially as a result of the decade of austerity which followed the 2008 financial crash.

GWE 107: Gross National Product (GNP) is the current indicator used by the Westminster government as a measure of "progress". This averaged figure hides the fact that for the majority living standards are going backwards. GNP is a measure that helps the top 1% get richer.

GWE 108: Regulators of many key sectors in the Welsh economy are given their terms of reference by Westminster, adversely affecting the ability of the Welsh Government to structure and regulate the economy and achieve wellbeing outcomes for the people of Wales.

GWE 109: The Welsh Government is struggling to change old thinking that it is needful to destroy or harm the environment in pursuit of jobs. Public money is still spent supporting environmentally harmful forms of business, travel, and energy production.

GWE 110: Wales has benefitted from European Union funds for economically depressed regions for the last 25 years. Brexit has removed this source of funding now this funding has gone, dispersing much of the pool of talent for localised economic development.

GWE 111: At the same time as we need to grow access for all to employment, the climate and biodiversity impacts of all sectors in Wales are still too high and in need of urgent measures.

## **Policies**

GWE 200: These proposals are supported by the best available evidence from sustainability sciences, but also new thinking and practice in economic transformation driven by citizens worldwide. The Wales Green Party is proud to be a part of the international Green movement that is initiating and supporting such developments. Welsh legislation for the Wellbeing of Future Generations is a good basis, but it is currently too weak and poorly applied. Wales Green Party will work to ensure that the WFG Act works together with recent Welsh Government commitments to



the international Wellbeing Economy alliance of governments. Below we set out some key elements for change.

### **Economic, Societal and Ecological Resilience: Build Back Better**

GWE 201: Resilience refers to the ability of a system to bounce back after shocks. Build Back Better is about 'bouncing forward' to create a different and more resilient economic system.

GWE 202: Green New Deal approaches to mass job creation using appropriate renewable technologies are an essential piece of the mosaic of change that is needed. We propose to strengthen their viability with a range of effective financing instruments.

GWE 203: Wales has the potential to generate more renewable energy than we use. The Green New Deal proposes that we utilise the opportunities for on-shore wind power, off-shore wind power, tidal power and hydroelectricity which our landscape offers (see Energy).

GWE 204: Reducing the need for domestic heating energy by a Wales-wide programme of buildings insulation would have the added benefits of creating long-term employment across the whole country, and improving the local economy in many areas.

GWE 205: Build Back Better includes a four-day week to share work and create more jobs, assisted by other measures in the section below.

### **Jobs for Wales**

GWE 300: Access to jobs for all cannot be secured by GNP growth. The Wales Green Party has an ambitious multi-sector job creation programme, starting with our ambitious Green New Deal. Our energy and transport policies; agriculture and tourism policies find ways to create new jobs AND save climate changing emissions AND support biodiversity recovery.

GWE 301: Measures for transitioning to better ways to gain a living and support the land will include an upsurge of local jobs in restoration, not just to support reforestation, but also restoration of key ecologies such as wetlands.

GWE 302: The running of public services by a range of not-for-profit organisations will lead to job creation as all proceeds will be invested into meeting the needs of service recipients and to improving infrastructure that is needed.

GWE 303: Our tax proposals, abolishing employee National Insurance will help businesses create new jobs, and the sharing of work.

### **Economic Governance**

GWE 400: A Green Wellbeing Economy has to be based in an equitable distribution of resources, wealth, opportunity and power. To achieve these we need to change the current system of economic governance.

GWE 401: Working to take back control of the economic governance of Wales, whilst continuing to repatriate the extracted wealth of Wales is a complex political task requiring cooperation across the UK.

GWE 402: At the same time as demanding a fair deal for Wales in revision of the Barnett formula (see Democracy and Government), we also propose further meaningful transfers of powers to Wales to assist in developing the Green Wellbeing Economy.

GWE 403: The Wales Green Party supports an increased economic regulatory role for the Welsh Government, with democratic oversight at all levels, to re-set economic frameworks and business models, supporting everyone's involvement in new, creative kinds of economic development, not just those with existing capital.

GEW 404: We support the use of regulation, the tax system and public money to create a greener economy improving wellbeing of people and environment, not measured by GNP but by a new kind of evidence-based metrics and reporting.

GWE 405: A strategic and transparent review of the current levers available to the Welsh Government should be conducted. This is necessary to create joined up policy strategy for systemic transformation of the economy to deliver on the Wellbeing Economy commitments of the Welsh Government.

GWE 406: There is an urgent need for regulatory agencies in Wales and their remits, to be decided by the Welsh Government. The Wales Green Party supports a scoping exercise to determine the benefits and possibilities of regulation towards a Green Wellbeing Economy.

GWE 407: The Wales Green Party supports a place-building approach to local economy, with each locality having its unique blend of history, infrastructure, community & culture, resources and mix of industry and services.

GWE 408: The Wales Green Party also supports principles of Community Based Natural Resources Management which can be very successful in helping communities to directly economic benefits from the regenerative development of their local natural environments. (Links with Green Tourism & Biodiversity.)

GWE 409: We support Local Economic Development Plans, guided by overall Green Wellbeing Economy commitments, through deliberative democracy processes, facilitated and supported by planners and relevant expertise, to develop local resilience and strong communities. (Links with Planning.)

### **Economic and Business Frameworks**

GWE 500: The Wales Green Party aims for a more healthy mix of business models in the economy. We seek to grow the third sector of the economy with the following features: focus on stated social and environmental objectives, benefitting communities and nature; removes the drive to creation of profits and capital accumulation in the economic system; creates more good jobs as it does not need to squeeze workers to generate profit.

GWE 501: We aim for not-for-profit business models, supporting public value and social and ecological wellbeing, to become the norm in the Welsh economy. We will promote this policy with a blend of regulatory support, incentives and targeted regeneration policies, aimed at local production and social markets. We will provide special support for the involvement of young people as catalysts of economic and social innovation in a Green Wellbeing Economy.

GWE 502: The Wales Green Party will support the development of more cooperative and mutual economic enterprises, whether worker cooperatives, owned and controlled by their workers, or consumer cooperatives, owned and controlled by their customers, including mutual financial institutions like building societies and mutual insurers.

GWE 503: We will work for the reversal of privatisation of services and support these services changing to either not-for-profit delivery (such as not-for-profit Welsh Water) or more democratised forms of government and local government-organised provision.

GWE 504: Building capacity for Green economic regeneration requires a mix of measures: convening a network of experience in social and economic innovation in Wales; we propose a review of the capacity needed to help create new metrics and report on the economy, including the skills to facilitate effective public co-creation; and a review is needed of the capacity for using and developing new systemic tools for economic change, including mapping and modelling, and participatory methods suitable for public engagement.

### **Local, community-based economy**

GWE 600: We support existing local, small-to-medium businesses as a key basis for a renewed local economy.

GWE 601: Our Universal Basic Income scheme (see below) will help local business survive and change to meet new challenges and will also support people set up new businesses supplying goods and services in their own locality.

GWE 602: We will support community-generated Social and Not-for-Profit developments that create jobs, meet local needs and deliver social and environmental benefit.

GWE 603: At the Welsh and UK level and internationally, we will campaign and support measures to ensure local outlets of major franchises such as Starbucks pay their fair share of tax.

GWE 604: Developing a more resilient economy means localisation of as much production as possible and shorter supply chains.

GWE 605: The Wales Green Party will support the inclusion of locally based reporting into the wider reports measuring the degree of achievement of the Wellbeing Economy.

### **Foundation Economy Provision in Times of Change & Beyond**

GWE 700: The Wales Green Party welcomes the Foundation Economy approach that prioritises use of public money and commissioning to support basic provisioning and access to services for all. We believe that this should be extended to all those areas that have been shown to be so central to all

our lives during the pandemic. These include food security; decent housing; utilities and public services.

GWE 701: Resilient public services in a time of stress and change need to be supported by a different business model if they are to survive the increase in costs from shocks such as climate change. We need to anticipate these realities and urgently take our services back into a range of forms of public ownership in order to fulfil their real purposes - serving citizens.

GWE 702: Universal Basic Income has been a Green policy for over 20 years. Now it has become essential, and we will work to make sure that everyone has this basic security in the difficult years to come.

GWE 703: The Foundation Economy has to be complemented by foundational support. The Wales Green Party will also work to ensure support is there for all in personal & family difficulty and in the form of good pensions and support for disabled people.

GWE 704: A Green Wellbeing Economy approach is based on the recognition that GNP growth will never 'solve' inequality. Instead we will directly address inequality. The first step is a citizens' income through our UBI policies, and we will work to complement this with measures across, housing, health, good work and measures to challenge discriminatory culture and practices.

### **Universal Basic Income: a cross-cutting policy**

GWE 800: Universal Basic Income (UBI) sufficient to cover an individual's basic needs will be introduced. UBI is an unconditional income payable to each individual as a right of citizenship. It will not be subject to means testing and there will be no requirement to be either working or actively seeking work.

GWE 801: UBI will eliminate unemployment and poverty traps, as well as acting as a safety net to enable people to choose their own types and patterns of work. The Universal Basic Income scheme will thus enable the welfare state to develop towards a wellbeing community.

GWE 802: UBI facilitates job-sharing and part-time working and can directly benefit the large number of workers who have been forced to accept employment on zero hours contracts in recent years.

GWE 803: UBI gives all working people the chance to choose good and meaningful work and will improve pay and conditions.

### **Circular Economy**

GWE 900: We aim to have a circular economy where primary resource use, re-use and recycling are integrated into all production processes. This will require a substantial change from current production processes. Wales Green Party will work to strengthen existing Welsh Government commitments to a Circular Economy and to put in place the law and regulation that will make this work as an element of wider economic system change.

GWE 901: A circular economy needs to:

1. integrate resource use including natural and human, energy and land use, other social and economic initiatives, production, re-use and recycling;
2. change competitive business models to collaborative and place-based models, working with local resources and historical industries;
3. recognise the importance of education and community involvement with localised initiatives;
4. recognise the new and developing research and expertise requirements to map and plan for optimal material flows;
5. consider the impacts of resource planning on the Wellbeing of Future Generations.
6. develop a 'circularity culture' in Wales through education and public engagement/awareness raising.

GWE 902: In order to extend Circular Economy to large industrial enterprises, and to develop businesses that can work together in 'industrial symbiosis', we need to have an overview of material flows in the economy and design intervention points. An innovative advisory function needs to be developed, supported by data and modelling capacity. The Wales Green Party supports the proposal for a Not-for-Profit agency to be created/mandated to carry out this function, to include community representatives and stakeholders.

### **Regenerative Economy**

GWE 1000: Centuries of profit-led extractive economy have devastated nature. A Green Wellbeing Economy needs to regenerate both human and natural communities. In addition to supporting people-led economic regeneration in our post-industrial communities, our policies contribute to restructuring economic development for ecologies and rural communities.

GWE 1001: The pandemic has also shown us that we cannot take nature for granted. We must act to help nature regenerate our severely damaged ecosystems for the wellbeing of current and future generations. We will work to put in place tough regulation and support fair transitions to new forms of Regenerative Economy supporting biodiversity in Wales.

GWE 1002: Agro-ecology and closed loop farming is a restorative form of practice, improving local biodiversity. Farming businesses should be incentivised and supported to transition to regenerate nature and develop public value.

GWE 1003: Investing in restoration and regeneration of nature can not only directly create jobs in these fields but also create a whole range of secondary economic activity. Regenerated nature supports Green Tourism, and livelihoods linked to biodiversity such as guides and trackers.

GWE 1004: The enhanced cultural value of restored and regenerating spaces can provide resources for: study, research and environments for creative enterprises such as writing and painting etc; and opportunities for volunteers to be involved in restoration and regeneration projects will be valuable resources for schools, colleges and universities.

GWE 1005: We support a greater role for local governance of natural resources (Economic Governance) means that local communities have more powers to decide on and structure use of resources in ways that provide direct benefit to them and to future generations.

GWE 1006: Ecological restoration should be seen as a key part of the Green New Deal as it has huge potential for the mitigation of climate change as well as generating jobs and local benefits.

## **Taxation**

[Most taxation in Wales is determined by the UK government. This section is included to demonstrate the approach of the Green Party of England and Wales to taxation.]

GWE 1100: There are four main reasons for taxation:

- to provide the money to fund public expenditure.
- to redistribute income and wealth.
- to influence behaviour, including behaviour that promotes ecological sustainability.
- broader management of the economy.

GWE 1101: A good taxation system has the following characteristics:

- the system should be as simple as possible.
- the system should be fair, that is, treat people in the same position in the same way.
- taxes should, as far as possible, command wide public acceptance.
- taxes should be easy to collect and be difficult to avoid or evade.
- taken as a whole the system should be progressive, that is, those on higher incomes or with higher wealth should pay proportionately more than those with lower incomes or with lower wealth.

GWE 1102: Personal income will be by a new Consolidated Income Tax. Consolidated income will include earned income, unearned income, capital transfers, realised capital gains and income from self-employment (after deduction of reasonable expenses). This single tax will replace the current income tax, capital gains tax, capital transfer tax and inheritance tax. The rate will increase progressively the higher consolidated income gets. (Universal Basic Income will not be counted within an individual's consolidated income.)

GWE 1103: Employee National Insurance will be abolished as a separate tax.

GWE 1104: Value added tax (VAT) and specific duties (e.g. on alcohol, tobacco and fuel) will continue to be the main indirect taxes. We will levy VAT at high rates on luxuries and reduce or eliminate VAT on necessities to reduce the regressive nature of this indirect taxation.

GWE 1105: Corporation Tax will continue to be levied on the net profits declared by companies in the UK. In addition, any profits distributed abroad, which currently avoid further UK incomes taxes, will be subject to an additional 'withholding tax'.

GWE 1106: Employers' National Insurance contributions will be phased out, initially – to favour smaller enterprises – by raising the Employment Allowance.

GWE 1107: A carbon tax will be introduced whereby a steadily rising price will be placed on sources of all greenhouse gas emissions, including agricultural emissions and those embedded in imports. Part of the tax revenue will be paid out as dividends to UK residents, while the rest will be used to promote sustainable behaviours and investment in renewable technologies.

GWE 1108: Import duties will be levied on both raw materials and finished products which will reflect the ecological and social impact of the production, extraction and transportation of such goods where sufficient eco-taxes are not considered to have been levied in their country of origin, or ecological or social regulation is inadequate.

GWE 1109: We will introduce a system of Land Value Taxation (LVT) to reduce private profits and house prices and encourage sustainable development. In the long term this will replace other land- and property-based taxes. LVT will be set at a UK level, will be collected by Local Authorities and will include an element of redistribution of the tax income from wealthy areas to poorer areas.

### **Finance, Taxation Principles and Instruments in Wales**

GWE 1200: A Green Transformation Fund for Wales (GTFW). Current Welsh Government funds for transformation are a tiny fraction of what is needed. New financial instruments are required to finance ambitious decarbonisation and Green New Deal measures.

The GTFW would raise billions by issuing Green Bonds. This would meet the scale and urgency of the need to invest in carbon-reducing infrastructure. The GTFW would only fund projects that reduce carbon and deliver financial savings sufficient to repay the capital along with modest interest. The loans would run for the number of years needed to repay the loans with re-payments structured so as to be less than or equal to the savings made from the project. e.g. reduced electricity bills from changing to LED lighting or reduced fuel and maintenance costs after changing to an electric bus.

To complement the GTFW, task groups would be set up to identify potential projects, evaluate them, specify, contract installers/suppliers. Early examples would be: converting all public sector lighting to LED; installing rooftop solar across the public sector; making all new buses and recycling collection vehicles in Wales electric. Building of thousands of new zero carbon houses each year and deep retrofitting thousands of existing houses to near zero carbon would follow.

Working at scale and having a multi-year programme of investments will reduce unit costs and give suppliers confidence in developing their capacity and taking on and training employees. Jobs will be created wherever people live throughout Wales.

GWE 1201: Wellbeing Economy and Holistic Accounting: A Wellbeing Economy approach is intended to apply more a holistic and multi-factor approach, (as opposed to simply the mono dimensional GNP) WGP supports new forms of evaluation of economic measures that can identify their effects across a range of Wellbeing indicators. Economic efficiency can then be seen in terms of the benefits to society and environment rather than one line on one department's spreadsheet.

GWE 1202: The Wales Green Party is committed to the principle of Co-Benefits, where measures and expenditure are assessed according to their capacity to deliver across a range of different objectives. This is needed to understand how the different elements of the system can all support each other in a complementary way to deliver on Wellbeing Economy commitments and to avoid empty tick box approaches.

GWE 1203: Using the Tax and Public Commissioning System to Support Transition: Here for example, we might ensure a price premium on recycled 'Green Steel'; we might also see a price premium for locally produced food produced by ecologically friendly farming systems; and so on.

GWE 1204: Make Wales a Fair Tax Nation: we will work to stop tax avoidance and corruption and bring in transparency frameworks for all politicians and civil servants. We will close down corrupt practices in privatisation and awarding of crony contracts. Auditing of public expenditure will be strictly geared to assessing public and environmental benefit from every pound of our money spent.

## **Wales' Economic Sectors in Transition**

GWE 1300: Just Transition Principles: the Wales Green Party firmly believes in principles of 'just transition' for all industries in this period of change, as, for example, supported by the Greener Jobs Alliance. In addition to involvement from workers, unions, and businesses we will support community engagement, together with support from green transition professionals and expertise. Such engagement should follow participatory processes, for example those established by Planning for Real. Below we summarise our overall approach to transition in the range of sectors in the Welsh economy. Many of these sectors have a dedicated and expanded policy section with further detail.

GWE 1301: Heavy Industry: The Wales Green Party recognises that heavy industry remains an important part of the Welsh economy, including extraction, industrial processes and oil refining. We support the transition of all heavy industry with these key criteria in mind: urgent reduction of emissions in responding to the Climate Emergency which will often mean changing to new forms of energy; insertion of the industry into the Circular Economy materials stream, creating new livelihoods in modern recycling and re-use. In order to achieve these outcomes we need a constructive review of such industries in Wales, an assessment of the possibilities for transitioning in the short, medium and long term.

GWE 1302: Extractive Industries: Wales remains the location of important mineral extraction processes, and of the use of local and imported mining products for manufacturing, some of which produce specialist metals. The primary extractive materials are for construction and industrial carbonates (limestone). Attention has to be given to mining waste, removal of contaminants, groundwater and surface water, transport operations, and rights of way. We should also be aware of the marine sources of sand and gravel aggregates, for example from the Severn Estuary, subject to the Welsh National Marine Plan (2019), and the need for sustainable management of our marine environment.

GWE 1303: Green Tourism: To transition to Green tourism would be relatively easy and have many benefits. One condition would be a national policy of biodiversity restoration and regeneration (see Biodiversity and Agriculture), involving the creation of local training and jobs. Support for good quality local food and local green and social business innovation would also help make Wales a Green tourist destination. Transport links and services would need to be reviewed, with the emphasis on low-carbon forms of transport. International train routes would need to be identified and/or developed, encouraging visitors from Europe by train. Initial subsidies here would be better aligned with the Future Generations Act and Wellbeing Economy commitments than are the excessive and pointless subsidies to Cardiff Airport.

GWE 1304: Rural Economy: There is a need to provide sound livelihoods for farmers, especially those transitioning to agro-ecological production that benefits people and planet. Issues of rural poverty and access to public services need to be addressed. UBI would help here. We propose



measures to: stop pollution from over-intensive farming; restore and manage some areas; reverse deforestation with more native species; and support regenerative and low emission forms of agriculture. Here, transitioning would be supported by local public procurement policies. This could also apply to the development of Welsh forestry and wood products, consistent with biodiversity objectives. The creation of new ways to give more access to the land for low-impact and agroecological food production in rural and peri-urban locations will also boost the rural economy in transition. We believe the best way to achieve this would be to have a National Land Commission to convene discussions between stakeholders with the goal of urgently increasing food security.

GWE 1305: Services: The Wales Green Party recognises the enormous value of service industries, which can also contribute to low-resource economic development. The service industries of Wales including pubs, clubs, cafes and bars, restaurants, hotels, spas and beauty services, complementary therapies and so on, all add zing to cultural and economic life. Consumer preferences for socially and ecologically responsible services could be encouraged by a kite mark system. Development of localised not-for-profit companies providing local services, initiated and run by young people would be supported by a dedicated fund.

GWE 1306: Culture and Creative Economy: we believe that the Arts, culture and the Welsh language provide essential individual and social benefit that should be seen as complementary to the Foundation Economy. In this we include the range from adult learning and discussion groups to the importance of sport for personal and social development and enjoyment. These activities are vital for healthy communities in Wales. Much cultural activity is low impact, but we will encourage transparent reporting on environmental costs of activities, for example, high cost TV productions. We will work to support Arts and Sports venues and UBI and social business support will provide a basis for many creative ventures. We value the Welsh TV and film production companies and would support more autonomy for S4C as a driver of cultural innovation in Wales.

GWE 1307: Media, Internet, Connectivity and Artificial Intelligence: Internet services and connectivity have proved to be essential in the pandemic and are increasingly necessary for all. Internet is needed, not only for many forms of work, but in order to function as a citizen in our societies. Media companies and start-ups are a very important part of new forms of economic development. The Wales Green Party supports connectivity for all, within a reformed sector that is more strongly regulated in the interest of the public, democracy, and our environment. Equally, the development of Artificial Intelligence can be put to many good uses. For example the capacity to handle large amounts of data and to find patterns in this data, can greatly assist in developing strategies for positive change. However, much of this current applications and research is linked to feeding the consumer growth economy in harmful ways, including forms of 'surveillance capitalism'. We will regulate potentially harmful activities and support efforts to grow not-for-profit enterprises in AI which are committed to prioritising public and environmental benefits

## 4. Democracy and Levels of Administration

DEM 100: All decision-making and action throughout all levels of government, including international government, shall be governed by the principle of subsidiarity: namely that nothing should be done centrally if it can be done equally well, or better, locally. This means extending meaningful democracy.

DEM 101: All the major political decisions which affect our lives should ideally be made with our active participation, which requires open and informed debate rather than simply voting without discussion. This requires that all economic and social activity should be carried out on a human scale; that is, in a way that supports coproduction, providing access to, and influence over such decisions to individuals and groups.

DEM 102: Economic Democracy: the growth at-all-costs economy has excluded most citizens from participation in any roles other than consumer or worker. Other parts of this document state the need for a new kind of economy and spells out the greater citizen participation that this will require. We will work to extend democracy into areas of local economic planning to help develop vibrant and resilient local economies.

DEM103: We see Local Authorities as potentially custodians of local democracy, being the primary agents for building strong, resilient communities and local economies. We propose reform of the current local government structures in Wales which are not fit for the 21st century. We do not propose to outline this reform here but that we will work with all stakeholders to develop proposals in this area for Wales. We believe that this reform will see a reduction in the number of local authorities in Wales and that power in many areas will be at more local levels, such as Town and Community Councils, empowered to take more decisions for local wellbeing and sustainability.

DEM 104: Given the scale of human activity in the world today, and the indirect impact that much of this activity has on people living in different areas, it is clear that not all decisions can be made locally. Many decisions need to be made a more macro-level but these should still be informed by local needs and views. We therefore support better channels of communication between the different layers of government.

DEM 105: Democracy should not stand still and can have many components. We support multiple forms of democracy that all have their place in a complex modern society: Representative democracy, electing representatives to carry out a public manifesto; local assemblies to help identify and debate local issues; citizens' juries to debate and explore contentious issues such as new technologies or taxation proposals; and so on. Referenda on specific topics can be a useful part of democracy, but only if accompanied by appropriate, localised, deliberative processes and sound information. New forms of democracy should be trialled in the spirit of an open learning and responsive politics, not a deliberately hidden top-down politics of control.

DEM 106: In representative democracy we delegate power to our elected representatives and this trust must be accompanied by full accountability. Government requires scrutiny and clear processes whereby government decisions and actions are subject to questioning. Accountability processes are also vital for the prevention of corruption and misuse of power for private and group gain. We wish to see greater disclosure of the decision-making process at all levels of Government and not be reliant on an FOI process that has become more a game than a democratic information sharing process.

DEM 107: Historically a free press is a key part of the scrutiny of governments and a site for understanding and debate in the public sphere. The press has always been vulnerable to private agendas of owners and becoming a propaganda outlet. Now many people gain their information through the internet and recent events have shown that this is also vulnerable to misuse and can

also undermine democracy. We will work to ensure Wales develops and maintains its own media to provide the information and scrutiny of Government that a modern nation requires.

DEM 108: Corruption and Transparency. The last time the election law was changed was 2001, this now requires urgent updating for modern times and threats. We support the Fair Vote campaign calls for increased transparency; increased monitoring and penalties for flouting electoral law; imprints on all digital advertisements ; and the regulation of capacity to use personal data for hidden targeted messaging.

DEM 109: Democracy and Inclusion: we support the inclusion of all communities and groups in the democratic process. We will work towards greater inclusion of marginalised voices as we work for this in our own party.

DEM 110: We believe that voters want a new approach to democracy which means parties working together for the common good. We will seek to work with other progressive parties wherever possible, consistent with our principles.

### **Independence, Devolution and a new Structure**

DEM 200: The Wales Green Party supports the aspiration for an independent and fully democratic Wales, as per the following:

- Greens advocate bringing down local decision-making to those people who are most affected by those decisions, and with this in mind, the Wales Green Party supports the goal of Welsh self-determination; and
- In the event of a referendum on Welsh independence, the Wales Green Party commits to campaigning in favour of seceding from the United Kingdom.

DEM 201: We believe that further devolution should work to complement this aspiration and should be implemented in order to best serve the people of Wales, not at the convenience of a Westminster Government.

DEM 202: We welcome and support the recommendations of the Thomas Commission of October 2019 on the devolution of justice and policing powers to Wales, including the establishment of a Welsh legislature and courts, and the administration of the prison estate and non-custodial / probation services for Wales. Such devolution of powers and administrative arrangements should be provided for in the funding settlement with the UK Government.

DEM 203: We want to see the development of full accountability for justice and policing to the Welsh Parliament / Senedd, with restoration of legal aid cuts, especially in areas of deprivation; adoption of targets to reduce the prison population in Wales, supporting local prisons and other secure accommodation and the establishment of a Welsh Probation Service; and review of the current accountability of police forces to elected Police & Crime Commissioners, with other community representative arrangements being considered.

DEM 204: We believe that we should have a devolution model and financial agreement that at least mirrors the powers and financial support given to Scotland.

DEM 205: Wales Green Party welcomes that the Wales Act 2017 has introduced a 'reserved powers' model of devolution in Wales, giving more responsibilities to the Welsh Parliament and Government, including tax raising powers.

DEM 206: Wales Green Party welcomes the report 'A Parliament that works for Wales' published in November 2017 of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, chaired by Professor Laura McAllister, and supports its recommendations that:

- Welsh Parliament / Senedd should be expanded to between 80 and 90 members
- Members of the Senedd should be elected from multi-member constituencies of between 4 and 6 members by a single-transferable vote or flexible list system
- Gender quotas should be introduced
- Candidates should be able to stand for election to the Welsh Parliament / Senedd on the basis of transparent job- sharing

DEM 207: We believe that a stronger more appropriate Senedd and Executive will remove the need for a growing list of external bodies and Commissioners in Wales and such roles and oversight should be returned to respective and enhanced Senedd Committees.

DEM 208: The political hegemony of one party in Wales across our civic life is a long term problem and we would introduce an independent and enhanced public appointments department independent of Government to manage and oversee all aspects of public appointments.

DEM 209: We believe that democracy is fluid and reviewing how we are governed on a regular basis is a healthy aspect in a democracy and propose that a complete review of our Governance arrangements at every level is undertaken on a regular basis and propose a review after every four terms of Government of Welsh Government and Local Authorities.

DEM 300: We will act to strengthen the role and responsibilities of Town and Community Councils. Town and Community Councils should be set up where they do not already exist. Some are not using the full extent of their powers (e.g. they do not always take up funds for environmental improvements) and their active engagement in decision-making will be encouraged (e.g. they can have greater responsibility in planning decisions).

DEM 301: Access to the Councils' records and information should be made more open. Also, the creation of special community forums to oversee the work of particular departments and committees may increase involvement. Where elected, therefore, Green Councillors will try to persuade their local authorities to write such provisions into their own standing orders.

DEM 302: Wales GP supports the principle of Citizens Assemblies to make recommendations to the Senedd on important issues such as climate change.

### **Welsh Government and Westminster**

DEM 400: We will push for the replacement of the formula that is used to determine the amount of money the UK government allocates to Wales, with one that is based on need rather than population density.

DEM 401: We will argue for more powers to be given to the Welsh Government where and when we find that our policies in any area are difficult to implement without such extra powers such as the anomalies in Transport on Air Passenger Duty or Rail Infrastructure.

## **Welsh Government and the World**

DEM 500: The Wales Green Party is an internationalist party that believes in localism. The Welsh Government has begun to do innovative work on sustainability which we support and will work to urgently extend. Much international cooperation took place through the Welsh membership of the EU, now this now needs to be proactively sought. We will work for the Welsh Government to be much more actively involved in contributing to international groupings working for stronger responses to the Climate Emergency; the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; the development of international financial frameworks that can help to support national Wellbeing Economies; and the strengthening of International Environmental, Human Rights and Labour laws.

DEM 501: We would support and continue the important work that Wales does to support International Development, in particular the unique and special relationships that have been built up by Hub Cymru Africa and the Wales Africa links. However we also propose that Wales sets up a 'learning from the global South' dimension that looks at innovation for sustainable futures that is being undertaken by many organisations in the South that are ahead on such areas as appropriate localised technology combining traditional practices and new science; agroecological farming and markets; reforestation and ecological restoration for ecologies and community economies.

## **5. Agriculture and Countryside Matters**

### **Background**

AGR 100: At a time of Climate Emergency and in a challenging post Brexit landscape when the global pandemic has highlighted the lack of resilience across so many areas, food production and supply in particular, WGP proposes a coherent, inclusive and transformative vision for this sector going forward.

AGR 101: Here in Wales, agriculture is not only an integral part of the economy but also the environment, culture, language and social fabric. Calls for changes in land use are often met with resistance, however there is a growing appetite and acceptance for change. For any change to reflect the needs of communities and to respect the heritage and culture of Wales, that change needs to be:

- farmer and community-led
- supported sufficiently
- promote and not degrade the Welsh Language

AGR 102: Everyone has the right to a sufficient supply of nutritious, affordable, and safe food to lead a healthy life. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need for food security at the local, national, and global level. Therefore, there is a need to produce more, better quality food in Wales, whilst creating more space for nature too.

AGR 103: Farming and food in Wales along with the associated biodiversity has been severely affected by the industrial agribusiness model. The deforestation of the land demands a new

model. Working with farmers and the agroecological and food movements in Wales, Green policies would build a viable alternative for our rural communities.

AGR 104: The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) set out the recommendation in May 2019 for the UK to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, with a lower target of 95% for Wales, stating that Wales could only reach a target of 95% due to the importance of the farming industry to rural communities. However, the Welsh Government has set a target of reaching net zero by 2050 at the latest. Wales Green Party argues that 2050 is too late and the target should be net zero by 2030. 2050 is in line with neither science nor equity.

Agriculture is responsible for 12% of Welsh emissions and NFU Cymru have recognised the need for the sector to reduce emissions. NFU Cymru have set their own target for the sector to reach net zero by 2040 with a strong emphasis on improved productivity.

AGR 105: Conversations and collaboration between food producers, politicians and policy makers are vital to achieving these changes. We need an overarching Green New Deal for food and farming, designed to deliver a 10-year transition to agroecology. This means incentives, regulation and funding all being designed to help farmers work with nature - not against it.

AGR 106: The rural areas of Wales extend to more than 1.6million ha with agricultural land making up 87% of the total land area of Wales. Just over a third of the population live in these rural areas. Many people experience the same social and economic pressures recognised among urban populations. These include poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and inadequate social and medical provision, poor access to services, alienation, and prejudice.

AGR 107: These rural areas, which we collectively know as the Countryside, also represent the habitats for the greater proportion of wildlife in Wales. Habitats and their plant and animal communities are under great stress from the demands of the total human population and from climate change and other environmental impacts. Some habitats and the biodiversity they support are globally rare or unique to the British Islands and are recognised as being at risk - we have international obligations to conserve them.

AGR 108: In developing our policies for the countryside, we recognise the conflicting interests behind the pressures faced by both the human and nonhuman populations. By doing so we seek to protect and enhance quality of life, not only for rural communities, but also for urban populations that rely on the many services provided by the countryside. These include the supply of food, water and natural resources and for a wide range of recreational pursuits ranging from the casual to highly organised events that are enhanced by or depend on their rural setting.

AGR 109: Failure to reconcile the many conflicting demands found within the countryside risks drift of population to urban areas, leading to strain on urban facilities and weakening of countryside communities. In addition, these demands may lead to an ecological collapse that would have major consequences for the economy and wellbeing of people in Wales and beyond.

## **Vision**

AGR 200: Wales' relationship with food, farming and forestry is transformed, with more space for nature, opportunities for food growing and no net carbon footprint.

AGR 201: Rural landscapes are restored, and agroecological farming methods are widespread.

The transition to agroecological farming and transfer of subsidies to farming methods and food systems will create jobs and restore ecosystem health, including the quality of our soils and rivers.

AGR 202: The way we produce our food supports employment, ecosystems, public health and food security. By localising food systems and promoting food sovereignty, control over production, distribution and access to food is increasingly in the hands of communities and workers in Wales. Urban farms and growing projects and community-supported agriculture benefit from farm subsidies as the multiple and high impact benefits are recognised in the scheme.

AGR 203: Through careful reforestation, peatland restoration and regenerative farming, we will reduce carbon emissions and realise the land's ability to absorb carbon.

AGR 204: Wales Green Party recognises that meeting the varied needs of rural and urban communities may require different approaches that are nevertheless harmonised so that the interests of one community do not dominate another and that experiences gained are shared for mutual benefit.

AGR 205: The countryside is a living ecosystem that is essential for the survival of human communities both rural and urban. It has an innate value that cannot be assessed in solely monetary terms.

AGR 206: We believe that we all have an obligation to live within the natural limits of our environment and to adopt lifestyles that will not irrevocably damage the environment for future generations.

## **Policies**

### **Wildlife, Habitat and Species Protection**

AGR 300: Maintaining a healthy environment necessitates the maintenance of species diversity and the vigorous protection of wild habitats. Wales Green Party's policies to increase self-reliance and address our consumer-based lifestyle will help to ensure that we do not make environmentally damaging demands on the countryside or the rest of the world. We will work to extend globally our policies to support sustainable rural communities and will support at every level of the international community effective measures to protect the environment.

AGR 301: Wales Green Party will strenuously seek to defend the natural bio-diversity of Wales and the integrity of its agricultural sector by maintaining Wales's GM-free status and ensuring that all maize grown or imported into Wales (the last source of GM contamination entering the country) will be free of genetically modified organisms. Bio-security measures will also be strengthened to pro-actively restrict the import and movement of plant and animal materials from regions where emerging diseases pose risk of spreading to indigenous species.

AGR 302: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and related legislation will be consolidated and strengthened to remove loopholes and weaknesses that allow further destruction of wildlife and habitats. We will ensure that wildlife-rich sites are adequately protected and extend a basic level of habitat protection to the whole countryside. We will ensure that there are sufficient resources to enforce the legislation. Wales Green Party will make it a general offence to cause cruelty to wild animals or suffering where it can be practicably avoided. Those committing such acts will be

prosecuted in the same way as for domestic animals. Humane methods of killing, for instance in pest control, will be required. We will bring in an outright ban on snaring.

AGR 303: We will ensure that legislation is adequate to prevent wildlife crime and that there are sufficient resources to enforce the legislation and prosecute those who carry out wildlife crime.

AGR 304: Wales Green Party will work with appropriate partners to strengthen international wildlife law and to ensure that it is implemented.

AGR 305: We will advocate expansion of the under-funded Glastir Entry, Glastir Advanced and Glastir Woodland Management schemes. We will support a wider range of site-specific conservation measures and contract flexibilities identified by Contract Managers who, with site owners are best placed to understand and identify the most appropriate responses to local pressures and opportunities for wildlife in particular locations.

AGR 306: Introduction of non-native wild plants and non-native genotypes of British species may have a negative impact on wild plant populations and communities in Wales, as may introduction of native plants or animals from imported stock where this disrupts local provenance or species health. We aim to ensure good quality habitat restoration and avoid the introduction of harmful, diseased or invasive non-native plants including stock of unknown provenance. Relevant policy is in place under the Convention for Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora but there remain loopholes. We will review legislation and implement new laws where currently there are only codes of practice.

AGR 307: Collection of wild plant species may have impacts on wild populations. Wales Green Party will support measures to introduce a European Wild Plants directive which would give clear labelling on all living wild plant material traded within Europe, license all traders dealing with wild-collected plant material and tighten up import and export controls on wild plants.

AGR 308: UK peatlands store far more carbon than UK forests – 5.5bn tonnes, compared with 150m. Ongoing schemes to restore peatlands in Wales must be supported and strengthened. Based on the CCC Report on Land Use recommendations, Wales and the Welsh Government should be aiming for the restoration of approximately 60,000 ha of peatland by 2050.

AGR 309: We recognise the continuing pressures on the countryside. Rather than economic growth being the key driver of planning policies, we believe that ecologically sound strategic planning is needed, protecting biodiversity, enhancing the environment, and integrating the needs of urban and rural communities, as well as future generations. We oppose the relocation of environmentally damaging operations overseas.

## **The Rural Economy**

AGR 310: Rural areas support a dynamic and diverse economy which makes a significant contribution to the national economy. Agriculture lies at the heart of this economy and it supports many spin-off enterprises from recreation to retail outlets. We believe that a new policy approach is needed to support and enhance this vital economic sector (see below). However, we also acknowledge the potential of non-agricultural rural enterprise, including recreation and tourism, renewable energy, home working and Internet linked enterprise. We will pursue policies to enhance such diversification of the rural economy, shifting it away from its traditional low pay and



seasonal work. In doing so we will ensure that rural enterprise does not adversely impact on the ecology or food production potential of the countryside.

AGR 311: Wales Green Party will encourage diversification into energy production, farm forestry and small 'value added' business ventures.

### **Localised food networks**

AGR 320: Wales Green Party will design policies to support and promote localised, sustainable food systems to increase the reliability, locality, and resilience of food systems in a post Covid, post Brexit world connecting independent producers and suppliers with communities. This is an area where public procurement policies have a key role to play.

AGR 321: Wales Green Party will encourage urban food growing, including new community farms, orchards, and allotments, through the planning system, as well as matching those with gardens and who want to grow food with those with the skills to undertake the work for communal benefit. Encourage the creation of new green spaces wherever they can take root in unused urban space – from pocket parks on vacant land, to pavement community planters and urban fruit trees.

AGR 322: Greens want to develop and support local food economies across Wales where consumers and local producers are linked directly, keeping wealth circulating in the local area and minimising food miles. We want to improve support for co-operative ventures in farming industries, which will improve efficiency and help to insulate the industry from the effects of market fluctuations. Local food production will be monitored to ensure minimal environmental impact, as producing locally does not guarantee high standards.

### **Agriculture**

AGR 330: Agriculture is facing a major crisis. The control of the industry is passing further out of the hands of farmers and growers into the hands of supermarket buyers and multinational bioengineering and petro-chemical firms, who are setting the research and development agenda for the decades to come.

AGR 331: Alongside these developments, the gap between consumers and producers has never been wider with numerous food scares rocking consumer confidence. Welsh farming faces a future which involves potential further collapses in agricultural prices, increasing intensification of farming, high risk technical innovations spurred by corporate profits and the continuing depopulation of rural areas due to farm labour reductions.

AGR 332: Wales Green Party policies on Food and Agriculture aim to improve farming livelihoods, provide safe and nutritious food, improve long-term food security and increase regional and local self-reliance in food. There is a requirement to replace EU based agricultural funding subsidies, and we support current proposals for agricultural payments to include 'public goods' outcomes for more sustainable farming practices.

AGR 333: Welsh agriculture has a reputation for excellence and quality. We must maintain this by supporting standards of excellence. The centrepiece of our agriculture policy is the support of organic farming, which will further enhance high quality farming in Wales. Additionally, we support

the promotion and recognition of the wide range of non-organic Welsh produce which is already produced less intensively and with minimal use of chemicals.

AGR 334: We will advocate increased financial support for farms in conversion to organic status and farms already converted to organic status linked as at present to Glastir but with more simplified entry opportunities.

AGR 335: We will advocate the creation of a fully funded organic advisory service.

AGR 336: We will strengthen farm animal welfare standards, including a ban on all live exports.

AGR 337: We will advocate restricting the use of antibiotics in livestock.

AGR 338: We will support shorter supply chains and direct links between producers and customers to maximise income generation in rural areas and to supply healthier, fresher food. We will discourage large-scale agribusiness, processors and retailers which take large profit margins, concentrate jobs in urban centres and cause the closure of small, local retailers.

AGR 339: We will discourage the amalgamation of farms, will support family farms, improve access to land for new entrants to farming and horticulture and favour the setting up of sustainable, small-scale and labour-intensive enterprises and their associated dwellings. We support sustainable diversification and multiple use of agricultural land and buildings, for instance for appropriate renewable energy, tourism, recreational pursuits and low-impact enterprises.

AGR 340: We will advocate major support and development of co-operative farming ventures.

AGR 341: We will support small-scale, environmentally benign farming systems that protect the soil, biodiversity and water resources, minimise greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, support 'joined-up' wildlife habitats and provide secure jobs in rural communities. We support farming and land management which conserve and, where appropriate, increase woods, orchards, agroforestry, hedges and other trees. We will phase out factory farming and discourage farming systems highly dependent on fossil fuels and imported feed that have large-scale environmental impacts and tend to reduce rural income and employment.

AGR 342: Soil is the biggest pool of carbon stored in the land and is an important wildlife habitat. Soil is also an essential resource without which human civilisation cannot survive; yet farming is too often responsible for depletion and degradation of the soil. Through legislation and support for agri-environment schemes, we will ensure that all farming and land uses protect and enhance the soil. Agriculture accounts for a large proportion of the pollution of watercourses with nitrates, phosphates and sediments from fertilisers, inappropriate application and disposal of manure and from soil erosion. Release and deposition of nitrogen compounds pose threats to biodiversity.

AGR 343: Net-zero demands just as much action on soil as on trees. That includes agricultural soils as well as peatlands, and wetlands too. Post Brexit any new farm payment system must incentivise, enable, and ultimately require, farming and land management that maximises carbon storage.

AGR 344: Any serious policy about soil carbon cannot ignore the problematic role of agrochemicals - pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. We recognise the need for healthy, living soils for carbon

storage, biodiversity and fertility and must design policies to minimise inputs that exterminate that precious biological life.

AGR 345: We must recognise that the IPCC call for 'rapid, far reaching and unprecedented change' in all sectors means that business-as-usual is not an option for the livestock sector. Wales Green Party will advocate the case for 'less but better meat' a pro-farmer and pro-farming proposition. We all have a responsibility to shift this debate away from polarisation and division. Policies on public procurement and sustainable sourcing by public bodies have a key role to play.

AGR 346: Wales Green Party welcomes the concept of agri-environment schemes and initiatives such as catchment-sensitive farming, where agricultural support may be used for environmentally sympathetic ends. We support extension of the concept to the whole of the countryside. We encourage further investment as having a positive role to play in securing the future of the countryside.

### **Land management**

AGR 350: We will encourage, through changes to the planning system, and close cooperation and consultation with rural communities, the 'rewilding' of spaces to provide new habitats for wildlife. An ecological crisis is happening – we must tackle it by restoring, expanding and joining up the wild spaces nature needs to thrive.

AGR 351: Wales Green Party support environmentally friendly flood management measures to protect communities from flooding. These measures, which include tree planting and soil restoration in upland catchment areas to tackle excess water at source, are cheaper and more effective than the traditional approach of constructing concrete dams resulting in further species loss at a time of biodiversity crisis. Changes must be made to the planning system to prevent building on floodplains, to further reduce the flooding risk communities face.

### **Animal Welfare**

AGR 360: WGP supports the creation of a new Commissioner for Biodiversity and Animal Protection with the following brief: biodiversity and bioabundance support and regeneration / rewilding; for wild ecosystems, flora, and animal protection and flourishing; dedicated attention to animal protection in farming; controls on the breeding and treatment of companion animals; investigating mitigation of the impact of companion animals on the wild environment; issues of trading in wild species and prevention of biohazards arising from importation of species.

AGR 361: We believe that hunting with dogs should remain illegal and that loopholes in the law should be closed.

AGR 362: Wales Green Party supports the existing legal protection for badgers as a species and opposes proposals for a badger cull.

AGR 363: We will advocate banning sale of genetically modified organisms in Wales.

AGR 364: Wales Green Party would seek to end non-stun slaughter of farmed animals in abattoirs in Wales.

AGR 365: Wales Green Party would introduce the regulation of all animal sanctuaries under the Animal Welfare Act (2006) to ensure high standards of welfare for the animals in their care.

### **Countryside Designations**

AGR 370: We see the whole of the countryside as important for conservation and will treat all farmland and open country as environmentally sensitive. We endorse the extra controls and incentives for areas which are protected but wish to see their successes replicated as widely as possible. We will work to link the current protected areas into a wider network of sites.

AGR 371: We will encourage Natural Resources Wales to carry out a thorough review of the complicated system of designated areas. In the long term, we will seek the continued expansion of conservation principles to the whole of the countryside.

AGR 372: The three National Parks and six Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide a popular expression of the nation's love of the countryside and demonstrate a special combination of access, recreation and tourism. In the long term the lessons learnt from National Parks and successes in arresting unbridled agricultural, forestry, industrial and mining developments will be applied to the whole countryside. However, in some cases pre-existing agricultural systems and large landholdings within National Parks continue to expand large-scale farming systems that are unsustainable and damaging to biodiversity and wildlife. The preservation of the status quo within National Parks and AONB's must not inhibit improvements to wildlife conservation and sustainability and support must be given to emerging farms transitioning into smaller scale, organic and locally sustainable models.

We will strengthen and widen the role of National Parks and the Park Authorities by encouraging better democracy in their governance and greater collaboration and support of Community Councils who understand the individual character of local communities, by addressing the lack of control and investment in species and habitat protection and by encouraging better take-up of renewable energy opportunities.

AGR 373: We consider that the use of National Parks for artillery ranges and other forms of destructive military training are incompatible with the designation of a National Park and its continuance cannot be tolerated. We will press for the earliest withdrawal of inappropriate military training within National Parks.

AGR 374: We oppose all minerals extraction in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, except small-scale operations which produce materials for local building and repair. We will therefore ensure that Welsh planning policy sufficiently safeguards National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty against the destructive and disruptive effects of inappropriate minerals extraction.

AGR 375: We will halt all damaging road construction within National Parks, in favour of the enhancement of public transport and improved access for walkers and cyclists.

### **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

AGR 380: We will provide adequate funding for the management of designated sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation and

Scheduled Ancient Monuments. In addition, we will give local authorities the power to make Countryside Conservation Orders to protect vulnerable features which require conservation, consistent with our aim to disseminate good practice more widely.

### **Woodlands, Forests and Trees**

AGR 390: Woods and trees play a vital role in the landscape. They protect soil from erosion, protect water supplies and water quality, provide wildlife habitats and protect the climate by storing carbon both above ground and in the soil. They can provide us with renewable supplies of timber, wood fuel and healthy food. Woods, plantations, orchards, agroforestry, hedges and trees are especially important to our policies to protect the countryside.

AGR 391: We will ensure that woods are considered as an integral part of Development Plans. Natural Resources Wales should liaise with local planning authorities and other bodies when dealing with the establishment of new woods and the management of existing ones. Woods and plantations that are currently in public ownership, such as those managed by Natural Resources Wales, will be protected. Public rights of access to such woods and plantations will also be protected whenever this is compatible with conserving wildlife and good management.

AGR 392: Good management of existing woods, plantations, orchards and hedges will be encouraged, for example through agri-environment schemes and Glastir Woodland Management, Glastir Woodland Creation. Farmers and landowners will be encouraged to allow new woods to grow and where appropriate to create new plantations, orchards, agroforestry and hedges. Timber, thinning and felling of woodland is licensed through Natural Resources Wales, however, unlicensed felling works are commonplace throughout Wales. We will increase powers and resources to identify and prosecute those landowners extracting wood without permission.

AGR 393: We will prohibit destruction of ancient woodland. Selective felling and other woodland management to protect public safety would still be allowed.

AGR 394: We will extend the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to provide wider public access such as that granted in Scotland by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Access Authorities will ensure that the law is properly implemented. Public access to woods and plantations will be protected (see above).

AGR 395: We will ensure that adequate funding is provided to protect and maintain existing rights of way and to create new ones.

## **6. Regeneration of Nature and Biodiversity in Wales**

NB 100: Our vision is that Wales will be transformed into an ecologically resilient nation that makes regenerating biodiversity and preserving its natural systems a priority. It is our duty to protect nature not only for its intrinsic value, though that is reason enough, but also for the benefits it brings to society in general, for our wellbeing and for the services that it provides. Halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecological damage in Wales is going to need a variety of different action plans that ultimately act in cohort to bring about positive change. These will include preserving existing sites that have been identified as ecologically important,

strategic management of areas to restore habitat and rewilding. The Wales Green Party will put in place strategies to help nature in Wales recover and regenerate so that it is free to thrive.

NB 101: In order to make Wales a global leader in ecological regeneration and conservation we will develop policy in the following areas:

- Education - We will make Ecoliteracy a key foundation of our education system and provide more support for public awareness, understanding and engagement.
- More funding for scientific research to help understand the ecological processes that underpin our natural systems in Wales, which currently is significantly lacking.
- Identifying existing sites with ecological value and protect them, providing space for them to build up ecological complexity and resilience. This will result in an increased meadow, woodland, and wetland areas but also increased protection for our coastal and marine environments.
- There will be greater protection for our endogenous species from disease imported from outside the UK.
- We will increase our efforts to limit and remove invasive plant and animal species from Wales.
- Our planning systems will be changed so that ecological considerations are key factors in all areas of development.

## **Issues and Concerns**

NB 200: Biodiversity Crisis: In Wales we have a nature and biodiversity crisis. There has been a steady decline in biodiversity, with 8% of our species threatened with extinction. According to data presented in the State of Nature report 2019, out of 8431 species assessed 133 have become extinct, with this trend showing no sign of stopping. We may have landscapes but increasingly they are empty of wildlife. Human impact is causing the degradation of our natural systems and driving the loss of biodiversity in Wales.

NB 201: Science and Research: In order for us to attempt to reverse the collapse of natural systems and promote a biodiverse Wales we will need better understanding of how all species interact within an ecosystem, how ecosystems function and evolve over time, and all related dynamic processes. This will necessarily be a multi-disciplined approach requiring collaborative efforts from ecologists, mycologists, geneticists, molecular biologists, microbiologists, botanists etc. Further scientific research is required to protect our native species from disease and invasive species imported from outside Wales that has already had severe detrimental effects.

NB 202: Climate change & ecological distribution: The Earth is getting warmer and the weather more extreme. As a result the global distribution of plants, animals and microbes will inevitably change. We must be aware of this and, through further research, determine which species are likely to suffer or benefit from climate change.

NB 203: Rewilding: In order for Wales to regain its lost biodiversity rewilding will have to play a large part. Rewilding is a serious method of land use to promote biodiversity and ecological resilience that has benefits for local human populations.

NB 204: Keystone species: Keystone species are essential for maintaining ecosystem function and promoting ecosystem biodiversity, they do this by modifying the environment (e.g. Beaver) or by controlling populations that would otherwise dominate the environment (e.g. Wolf).

NB 205: Soil: Soil is a complex and dynamic system, a complex network consisting of minerals, air, water and soil organic matter (SOM); the SOM consists of microbes, plant material and animals both alive and in their various stages of decomposition. Soil is home to a quarter of the globe's total biodiversity, it is full of organic matter, biodiverse, recycling nutrients thereby support terrestrial life. We recognise the essential contribution of fungi to soil condition as decomposers of organic matter, and the need to include garden compost, manure and other inputs (banning peat). The soils in Wales are severely degraded, devoid of life in many areas, lacking nutrients unable to support crops unless fertiliser is applied.

NB 206: Forest and woodland: There is very little natural forest left in Wales, it is either commercial pine monoculture or small, fragmented patches of decreasing sizes that are more prone to detrimental effects and decreasing plant and animal populations, ultimately jeopardising forest ecosystem functioning. Further stress is likely to be placed upon our wooded areas through the affects of climate change. Historically forested and wooded areas have provided services and income to the local population, they are also possible sites that attract green tourism further adding to local economies.

NB 207: Wetlands: We have diminishing Wetlands in Wales and there has been a catastrophic decline in wetland birds. Our wetlands and fresh water systems are particular susceptible to pollution, for example 78% of water courses in England and Wales are at risk of not meeting Good Ecological Status due to what is called diffuse pollution from farmland waste, roads and urban areas. This both impacts biodiversity and has an economic cost for water customers.

NB 208: Watercourses: We have also seen in recent years severe flooding in Wales. Degradation of our ecological systems result in increases water run off and huge amounts of water entering our streams and rivers that ultimately lead to flooding.

NB 209: Agricultural Impact: Agriculture in Wales has probably had the biggest overall impact upon nature and ecosystem functioning. 88% of land in Wales is agricultural. 'Agriculture in Wales report 2019' produced by the Welsh Government states: Agriculture in Wales generated an estimated Gross Value Added (GVA) of £457 million in 2017. This represented 0.8% of the total GVA for Wales for that year and 4% of the total UK GVA for agriculture. Agriculture represents a higher percentage of the Wales economy than it does for the UK as a whole (0.6%). The negative environmental and ecological impacts associated with agriculture can be summarised as: degradation of land, change of land use, pest problems associated with genetically homogenous monoculture, increased generalist species - such as e.g. fox, badgers and crows at the expense of more specialised species, and disposal of agricultural waste products.

NB 210: Shifting Baseline, the Quiet Disaster: The shifting baseline takes place because what we consider to be 'normal' for the planet, the baseline, is determined by what we experience in our lifetime. This means a huge underestimation of the extent of change. What we consider wild and natural today is nothing like people 100 years ago considered wild and natural. We need to change back to something like those levels of biodiversity in order to have a liveable future.

NB 211: Changing our attachment to some culturally valued landscapes and species: There are few truly wild places left in Wales. What is often considered wild and natural, is actually a highly modified and degraded environment that is ecologically very poor. We need to gain a new vision for landscapes in transition to richer biodiversity and shift cultural perceptions and values.

NB 212: Disease: The incidence of disease epidemics with our native plants and animals is increasing, with many of them so severe that they are likely to completely reshape our ecosystems and natural systems. This is directly linked increase in global trade and transportation.

NB 213: Changing Ecologies: We are seeing new species gaining a foothold in Wales as a result of climate change. As Wales warms we will likely see more and more species typically found closer to central Europe heading north. These species will likely fill the ecological niches that open up as our native species struggle. Therefore, these should not be considered invasive, they will become the new normal.

## **Policies**

NB 300: Our policies are key areas identified where new policy could potentially impact the nature and biodiversity crisis taking place in Wales. While this is by no means an exhaustive list its aim to promote dialogue and debate leading to the development of more robust policy in this area.

## **Learning, Awareness & Research**

NB 301 Ecoliteracy: In order to become a truly sustainable civilisation, we need to gain a deeper understanding of our place within the biosphere and how ecosystems organise, function and ultimately evolve. This involves gaining a basic understanding of ecology and ecological functioning, the principles of sustainability and therefore how to live accordingly. We propose that ecoliteracy will be a key foundation for learning and education at all levels.

NB 302: Learning for Rewilding: We must engage with the population at national and local level to explain the importance of rewilding large parts of Wales. Rewilding is a process oriented, dynamic approach to restoring ecosystems - we must inform the public about the process, the benefits and how they can take part.

NB 303: Support for Science and Research: Provide immediate funding for research into ecosystem functioning and interaction and the prevention/mitigation of threats to Welsh native species. Provide funding to research effective methods for removing existing invasive species, e.g. knot knotweed etc.

NB 304: Soil Research and Strategy: funding for research will be made available for studying soil biology and how we can regenerate the soils of Wales.

NB 305: Soil Monitoring: We welcome the Welsh soil health monitoring programme to assess and understand changes in the health of soil over time. The Wales Green Party proposes that the Welsh Government should develop linked direct action plans to improve all the soil of Wales.

NB 306: New research is need into ways we can reduce the impact of light pollution on urban wildlife - in particular how it effects insects.

NB 307: More research need to be done on how the urban environment effects the wildlife, we must then act upon this research to modify our urban environments to limit our impact on Nature.



## **Protection, Restoration and Rewilding**

NB 400: Protection against Disease: New and stringent checks must be employed on all living material and recently living material entering Wales. Wherever possible materials like timber should be grown and sourced in the UK but more specifically Wales, as this ensures that disease import is minimised.

NB 401: Protection: Current sites in Wales that have ecological interest must be protected and given space to develop without human interference.

NB 402: Encourage, through changes to the planning system, the 'rewilding' of spaces to provide new habitats for wildlife.

NB 403: Nature Recovery Mosaic of Wales: An ecological crisis is happening – we must tackle it by restoring, expanding and joining up the wild spaces nature needs to thrive. We support a national strategy for a Nature Mosaic - so that all areas can take part and understand their contribution.

NB 404: Keystone Species: Assessment of missing keystone species and plans for their protection or reintroduction should be made. We also support the protection/reintroduction of keystone species where appropriate. For example, reintroducing Beaver to parts of Wales to increase biodiversity and reduce flood risk.

NB 405: Wetlands & Watercourses: There has been a lot of effort in Wales to regenerate wetland habitat in Wales, for example the Dyfi estuary and the Gwent levels. This can also reduce flooding to our communities. The Wales Green Party supports protection, regeneration and rewilding of our natural wetland and river systems.

NB 406: Woodlands and Forest: The Wales Green Party supports conservation of what little wooded areas are left, but also aims longer term to restore the forest ecosystems that Wales should have - starting now.

NB 407: Hedgerows: Encourage the expansion and replanting of majority of hedgerows lost in the last 50 years through new subsidies, creating new environments for wildlife. Promote and encourage traditional mean of management i.e. hedge laying which provides jobs and is better for biodiversity and more sustainable.

NB 408: Invasive Species: Provide increased funds to local councils and authorities to remove established invasive species and to identify and limit the sale of potential invasive species.

## **Farming and Forestry**

NB 500: Agroforestry: We will aim to increase agroforestry in Wales but this must be limited to native heterogenous populations of trees - monocultures of non native conifer trees are not acceptable. The Wales Green Party proposes the aim for 50% of all farms to be engaged in agroforestry by 2030:

- Tree planting must be strategic and performed in concert with soil improvement and introduction of shrubs and other plants;
- Planted trees must be nationally native and where appropriate locally native;

- Planted trees must be from genetically diverse stock, to ensure genetic resilience within the community.

NB 501: Forest industries: Provide financial set up for forest-based enterprises for example coppicing for wood products. These sites can be both economical viable providing local jobs, promoting carbon capture and storage in Wales, while also promoting habitat while the trees grow.

NB 502: Regenerative farming: Help will be offered to farmers considering regenerative farming techniques both financial and research purposes. The evidence for regenerative farming is that it can improve biodiversity, soil health, watersheds and ecological services.

NB 503: Diffuse pollution and our fresh water systems: The main culprits of diffuse pollution, agriculture being the biggest followed by urban transport have to be held accountable - currently these sectors are not being sufficiently reprimanded or held to account for the pollution released into the environment.

NB 504 : Welsh Meadow Scheme: We support financial incentives for farmers to convert part of the land into meadow.

NB 505: Reduce pesticide and fungicide use: We support regulation to bring about reductions by at least 50% by overall weight by 2022. Reduce pesticide and fungicide use by at least 100% by 2030.

NB 506: Ban Harmful Pesticides: Immediately ban the most harmful pesticides (including glyphosate) and introduce new rigorous tests for pesticides. Only pesticides that pass this test, and demonstrably don't harm bees, butterflies and other wildlife, will be approved for use in Wales.

NB 507: Ban Glyphosate: We propose there should be an outright ban on glyphosate for routine removal of plants considered weeds. Such chemicals should only ever be used in highly controlled situations where invasive plants species are the target. Mechanical means, e.g. streamers should be the standard rather than chemical.

## 7. Marine and Coastal Policy

### Introduction and Key Principles

MAR 100: Oceans cover nearly 71% of the planet's surface, yet are widely treated with disrespect: fish harvested at unsustainable levels; the sea naively regarded as a bottomless and endless waste dump, resulting in floating plastic 'mountains', toxic 'soups' and despoiled ecosystems; we witness a covetous race to 'grab' huge areas of continental shelf for oil, gas and other resource exploitation; and the shoreline is wrecked by and threatened with further, still more ecologically insensitive, expressions of 'development'. Yet, these same beleaguered oceans supply a large proportion of the world's animal protein; support 250 million jobs in fisheries alone; form the basis for climate regulation; and are highly popular recreation destinations.

MAR 101: From such anthropocentric perspectives alone - notwithstanding that they also provide a home for around half the planet's living species! - it is high time this inadequately acknowledged abuse was slowed, halted and reversed.

MAR 102: In summary, marine ecosystems provide a range of provisioning, cultural, aesthetic, supporting and regulatory services and experiences of supreme value. These must be protected to maintain quality of life and human dignity and the complex biodiversity that underpins the working of the planet, including our economic activity.

MAR 103: Therefore, the principle that all marine activities need to function sustainably, within environmental limits, is the overriding objective of all Wales Green Party policies within marine and coastal sectors.

MAR 104: A number of further principles also apply:

1. marine ecosystems have intrinsic rights and values that exceed monetary valuation.
2. policy affecting the oceans and their use should be guided by best available scientific advice, not by political expediency.
3. the varied activities practised through the seas should respect the rights of other marine users.
4. values, rules and management systems employed to best sustain land areas should be similarly deployed in the marine environment, such as conservation designations, environmental impact assessments and planning regulations.
5. the livelihoods, cultures and knowledge of longstanding coastal communities who make their living from the sea should be respected.
6. the subsidiarity is paramount, namely that the lowest level to deal with an issue is normally the most appropriate scale to manage it.

MAR 105: Under these combined principles, a set of broad policies, each preceded by an overarching introductory position statement, are presented below under the following headings:

- The Health of the Marine Environment in Wales;
- Marine Governance;
- Sustainable Fisheries;
- Marine Aquaculture;
- Marine-based Energy;
- Coastal Erosion;
- Shipping;
- Marine Pollution;
- Recreation.

### **The Health of the Marine Environment in Wales**

MAR 200: Owing to its geographical location, Wales is located at the boundary of three oceanic climate zones. As a result the coastal and marine ecosystem are extremely diverse in life. In addition, for such a small country we have extremely varied coastal landscape for example large tidal ranges, large intertidal habitats and these in turn support a many different plants and animals. Unlike our terrestrial habitats the coast of Wales still has an abundance of large native wild animals such as Seals, Dolphins and Sharks. We also have internally recognised colonies of seabirds for example Skomer and Skokholm.

MAR 201: While on the face of it may appear that our coastal habitat and biodiversity is in a good state this is not actually the case. These habitats are extremely vulnerable. It is clear that climate change is starting to have considerable effects in this respect, not least with rising sea levels damaging delicate coastal ecosystems and causing problems for coastal human communities. Furthermore, as we have already mention in Biodiversity policies, diffuse agricultural pollution is finding its way into our coastal habitat.

MAR 202: Despite the fact that over two-thirds of Welsh inshore waters are designated as protected areas for their significant importance for wildlife, in many cases, designation has not led to effective management. On top of this, the UK's departure from the EU presents significant risks to the management of our seas.

MAR 203: Wild caught fish: Fishing is of particular importance to many coastal towns around Wales. The rise of modern fishing vessels, able to travel huge distances, and new fishing methods, has led to near collapse of many fin fish stocks, such as cod. Over recent decades, a higher rate of effort has been required to catch fewer and smaller fish, with some fish stocks being fished beyond limits recommended by scientists. Today, domestic legislation and fishers' initiatives are trying to tackle overexploitation of fin fish and shellfish stocks in Wales. However, some stocks are still far from enjoying healthy levels, with long lived species such as skates and rays still particularly vulnerable. There is also evidence that sub-tidal marine sediment habitats have been damaged in areas of the Celtic and Irish Seas by fishing activity, in particular by bottom-trawl and scallop dredge gear.

MAR 204: The Welsh Government is keen to see Wales as a world leader in aquaculture production. It has set targets for growth of aquaculture by 50% of farmed fin fish and 30% of farmed shellfish species by 2020. To fill the knowledge and data gaps, more research and data collection are needed regarding the effects of aquaculture on wider Welsh ecosystems.

MAR: 205: One confounding factor is that we do not know enough about the ecological functioning and how species interact in the Marine environment.

## **Marine Governance**

MAR 300: If it is to thrive and be sustainable with respect to diverse competing activities, the ocean must be managed holistically but also differentially, according to specific needs. We support the extension of current conservation measures including the introduction of more Marine Conservation Zones, and roles for Wildlife Trusts Cymru [ its Report on Marine Protected Areas 2019 ] and National Resources Wales in protection of marine environments. The principle of funding support for 'public goods' objectives will be applied to the conservation of marine ecologies and protection of sustainable fisheries.

MAR 301: This requires active coordination between a range of authorities, interested groups and stakeholders, utilising sound science.

MAR 302: Wales Green Party proposes that marine governance should function within Marine Spatial Plans. Written in consultation with all users of the sea, these plans will embody a requirement for sustainability; adopt an ecosystems approach (marine environment considered as a whole); and recognise the precautionary principle (burden of proof lying with those wishing to

utilise the marine environment to show their actions will not be harmful). Different- scale Marine Spatial Plans will be integrated and conform to the subsidiarity principle.

MAR 303: Wales Green Party will ensure an even-handed and transparent legal framework, supported by robust and timely data, for sustainable maritime governance. We will seek to shift Fisheries Policy from being primarily an instrument regulating economic activity to one ensuring integrity and sound functioning of marine ecosystems.

### **Sustainable Fisheries**

MAR 400: We overfish our oceans, increasingly via high-impact industrial fleets little connected to local fishing communities. Most commercial fish stocks worldwide are fully- or over-exploited, with almost all top ocean predators very severely depleted. It is vital this unacceptable situation is urgently addressed. Human impacts on the piscatorial environment should be managed in a fully precautionary manner, involving Marine Protected Areas, sometimes extending to 'no-take reserves' in which all extractive activities are banned.

MAR 401: Wales Green Party will retain quotas for fishing, defined at scales appropriate to specific sustainability objectives. Allocation will be based on long-term management goals present within the Marine Spatial Plans, with input from local inshore fishers and other stakeholders. Quotas will be allocated with a bias towards low impact operations and will not be tradable, with information on their allocation open and transparent. A vessel decommissioning scheme will continue, to reduce the capacity of the UK fishing fleet to an environmentally sustainable level. It will be necessary to ensure similar reductions are made for all who fish in UK waters.

MAR 402: We will promote actions at all levels to return all populations of commercially exploited marine species to within biologically safe limits. First, we will press for an end to all subsidies that increase fishing pressure, including concessionary tax rates for fuel, vessel modification and improving port and fish-processing facilities. Second, we will seek to ensure that no fleet fishes outside home waters to unacceptable standards. Third, we will press for a ban on bottom trawling, gillnetting, and long-lining for deep-sea species. Fourth, we will demand a ban on discards at sea and support research into the impact of this ban on seabird and marine mammal populations.

MAR 403: We will reform fisheries policies in favour of small-scale, low impact fishing methods and the inshore fishing fleet. This will enable smaller fishers to operate competitively and maintain resilient livelihoods within local communities. It will also help reduce negative environmental impacts caused by higher-impact fishing practises, such as use of heavy mobile gear, and reduce the carbon footprint of the fishing industry as a whole.

MAR 404: We, mindful of our policies favouring localism, will strive to make fisheries' processing, packaging and retailing focused on the local or regional scale. Fishers themselves will assume more control of the supply chain.

MAR 405: We will fully implement a large-scale, ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas within the UK's seas. Around one third of our exclusive economic zone should be selected, using best scientific practice, and established as no-take reserves closed to commercial fishing and other extractive activities.

MAR 406: To facilitate enforcement of prevention of fishing within these reserves, all boats granted a commercial licence to fish will be equipped with a GPS-enabled Vessel Monitoring System, operational at all times. The boundaries and existence of no-take reserves will undergo periodic renewal.

MAR 407: We will act on the likelihood that fishing communities may face short-term difficulties from Marine Protected Area measures. We will work with them to ensure creation of these areas, particularly no-take reserves, does not significantly damage livelihoods in line with our economic transitional policies.

MAR 408: We will promote the establishment of a large-scale, internationally-comprehensive system of Marine Protected Areas.

### **Marine Aquaculture**

MAR 500: Industrial-scale fish farming is not the answer to dwindling fish stocks in the oceans but causes widespread pollution of inland and coastal waters and spreads disease to wild fish. However, small-scale aquaculture can be sustainable and is an important source of food and income. It is important for the diversification and production of resilient food supplies.

MAR 501: We will phase out fish farms that involve: overstocking; heavy use of feed, chemical or fossil fuel inputs; production of substantial pollution; or conditions injurious to fish, environmental and/or human health. Instead, emphasis will be on cultivation of native species in open water systems, with non-native species' cultivation restricted to land-based tanks.

MAR 502: We will actively support further research into sustainable aquaculture.

### **Marine-based Energy**

MAR 600: Offshore wind, wave and tidal stream projects have a key role to play in meeting carbon emission targets and ensuring energy security. However, such projects must be developed sensitively, with due regard to potential impacts on ecology and the intrinsic values of our seas and shorelines.

MAR 601: We will promote and prioritise development of all forms of renewable energy provision, through grants, business rates, planning regulations and other financial incentives.

MAR 602: We will insist that prior to the development of any marine energy structure, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment will be carried out.

MAR 603: We will put in place tighter environmental controls - even retrospective conditions – on extant fossil fuel extraction operations. All oil and gas companies will be required to establish an integrated Environmental Management System.

MAR 604: We will work with the Crown Estate, which owns much of the UK's coastline, to open up more coastal waters for offshore wind and marine energy. We will ensure that the long-term profits from these vital energy assets come to the coastal communities rather than energy firms.

MAR 605: While we must invest in renewable energy sources like off shore wind generation we must first provide a comprehensive survey of the state of our marine environments and increase funding into our basic understanding of how marine ecosystems function.

### **Coastal Erosion**

MAR 700: Whilst it is unrealistic to think it can be stopped entirely, measures can and should be taken to ameliorate the impacts of coastal erosion. Such erosion is escalating rapidly, in part due to global warming induced sea level rise and particularly where aggregate dredging occurs offshore.

MAR 701: We will commission an independent and fair assessment of the coastal erosive impact of offshore dredging, mindful of its impact in damaging the seabed and its flora and fauna, and in promoting hydrological conditions favouring large, erosive waves.

MAR 702: We will divert resources from 'hard' sea defences towards 'softer' means of ameliorating coastal erosion. The latter, such as coastal salt marshes, work with rather than against nature. We recognise, nonetheless, that hard defences, including concrete barriers and reinforcements, are justified in some locations.

### **Shipping**

MAR 800: Shipping is a potentially low-impact method of conveying goods and people over large distances. At present, however, it has a high environmental impact being a major source of pollution and carbon emissions. The main reasons for this environmental impact are the lag in regulation of marine emissions and the high volume of unnecessary trade.

MAR 801: We will support use of shipping over more carbon-intensive methods of long-distance transport for the movement of goods, although we aim to see the quantity of goods shipped to and from the UK decline as we move towards a more localised economy.

MAR 802: We will introduce regulations and incentives to make shipping more sustainable. These will be aimed, for example, at reducing use of cheap 'bunker fuel' and offshore transfer of oil from tankers. Improved enforcement will involve the International Maritime Organisation.

### **Marine Pollution**

MAR 900: Pollution of UK beaches and seas remains substantial and intolerable. Too often, the sea is treated as a waste dump, filled via numerous sources: direct littering, losses or discards from boats, illegal dumping, sewage discharges, and river-borne pollutants.

MAR 901: We will push for implementation and stronger enforcement of existing marine pollution directives. We will demand higher penalties for those who pollute the marine environment, commensurate with damage inflicted. We will formulate Marine Pollution Action Plans through a Welsh body appointed to oversee this work and the impartial enforcement of current and future marine pollution laws.

MAR 902: We will encourage water companies to shift from short-term 'end of pipe' solutions to long-term sustainable solutions to reduce pollution. Higher priority will be given to improving sewage treatment and returning treated waste to the land where feasible.

MAR 903: We will ban the dumping of hazardous substances into the sea.

## **Recreation**

MAR 1000: Coast and beaches hold a special attraction for recreation and leisure. Many people find spending time by the sea an important way to relax and relieve stress. However, there is work needed to make the impact of associated activities as sustainable as possible.

MAR 1001: We will work to ensure our beaches and coastal areas conform to the highest standards of water quality and shoreline cleanliness. We aim to achieve and maintain 100% Blue Flag beaches.

MAR 1002: We will promote use of wind and electricity-powered vessels within coastal recreation over those which are highly energy intensive and use fossil fuels.

MAR 1003: We will seek to make recreational fishing less inhumane, ending the practice of 'live baiting' (live fish used as bait) and banning barbed, double and triple hooks.

MAR 1004: We will promote greater awareness of the tenacious problem of litter left on beaches and the coast, combining clean-up schemes with prominent penalties for polluters.

## **8. Energy**

### **Vision**

Green Party Wales will drive rapid decarbonisation away from fossil fuels to net zero by 2030 in this critical decade for action on climate change. Wales will collaborate internationally to deliver an affordable, socially beneficial energy system, through energy efficiency and market restructuring. Consumers will be empowered to make sustainable energy choices, and green jobs will be created for the people of Wales. Energy generation will be renewable, featuring local ownership of distributed energy generation and supporting not-for-profit community energy projects.

### **A Decarbonised System**

EN 201: The Wales Green Party will drive energy efficiency, rapid increase in all forms of renewable energy generation, energy storage, decarbonised transport, decarbonised heat, and fundamental restructuring of infrastructure systems and markets required to deliver net zero.

EN 202: Planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral action will be required to deliver net zero by 2030. Existing government policy and planning provides no clear roadmap to delivery - which must be immediately addressed.

EN 203: There will be a radical increase in jobs dedicated to decarbonisation, and ensuring that Welsh Government provides leadership across the entire spectrum of energy related matters.



EN 204: The application of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act will shape decision-making and influence on energy matters - emphasising the strategic link between a healthier and more equal Wales, cleaner air, and decarbonisation of our energy and transport systems. Compliance must be measured and enforcement measures undertaken where necessary.

EN 205: Wales Green Party supports strengthening grid infrastructure as the backbone of a decarbonised energy system.

EN 206: Wales Green Party supports storage at all geographic scales, recognising the essential role that storage will play in balancing supply and demand.

EN 207: We support localised distributed renewable energy generation, particularly community owned schemes.

EN 208: Wales Green Party will ensure demand management and load balancing capacity: security of energy supply will be achieved at a local and regional scale with local grids, micro grids, and direct local arrangements between generators and users. We will support innovation to meet the changing requirements for demand management and load balancing so that a reliable energy, renewable supply is guaranteed.

EN 209: We support a multi-vector approach to planning for decarbonisation, which requires in addition to renewable sources of electricity, the electrification of transport and heat.

EN 210: Energy and transport policy will be linked at national and local level to reduce the demand for travel and will promote full integration active travel and of bus, coach and rail services to improve the potential for personal/public transport interchange.

EN 211: The Wales Green Party would investigate the viability of directly investing in upgrading the grid, in order to support our ambition for more local renewable and distributed generation in Wales.

EN 212: In Wales, grid regulation and energy legislation would remain with the UK government to keep a simple regulatory regime. UK government would be required to take into account the specific needs of the grid in Wales, particularly the appropriate development of a stronger grid network in rural areas needed to enable renewable energy deployment and ensuring that communities benefit sufficiently from large scale energy installations.

EN 213: Full electrification of the bus fleet by 2030 will be targeted with a focus on cities and predominantly urban areas. Electrification of the rail network by 2040, with a view to complementing the network with hydrogen rail as this becomes commercially viable in the 2030s and 2040s.

EN 214: We recognise that due to the large and rural nature of the majority of Wales, it will take longer to develop an appropriate infrastructure for electrification of road vehicles. In these areas other aspects linked to reducing carbon intensive transport will be priorities (see Transport).

## Efficiency & Demand Management

EN 301: Welsh Government uses the powers that it has (including strategy, policy, planning, growth deals and economic recovery packages) to give priority to measures that have the potential to reduce energy consumption at all scales i.e. residential to large scale industrial uses.

EN 302: Wales Green Party will cut bills and ensure warm homes for all by amending building regulations to ensure that all new dwellings (including conversions) are built to zero carbon standards. We will plan to reduce the energy demand in existing dwellings through intensive retrofit programmes. The programmes will focus first on improving housing conditions and reducing the energy costs of poorer households, particularly those suffering fuel poverty. We will set clear and consistent targets and timetables for improving efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all sectors of the economy.

EN 303: Energy policy for housing will be focused on area-based programmes linked with housing improvement policies and initiatives for bringing vacant dwellings and commercial properties into use. Domestic demand reduction will be supported by targeted grant regimes to ensure take-up, with special attention to poorer households and those suffering fuel poverty. Subsidised loans will be available to improve 'hard to treat' homes. Special care will be taken with 'traditional buildings' to avoid installation of inappropriate measures.

EN 304: In Welsh rural areas we recognise the high percentage of houses not on 'mains gas', which are reliant on coal, oil, and bottled gas for space and water heating. These would be included in the initial targeting of energy efficiency measures.

EN 305: Wales Green Party will ensure better energy performance in buildings in the non-domestic sectors. Efficiency measures will be supported through a combination of regulation and incentives. Policies will apply equally to retrofit and new build. Small businesses may require specialized support, in the form of advice services linked to grant and loan schemes, to assist them to reduce energy costs and improve the energy efficiency of their operations.

EN 306: We will support the development of a low-carbon heat market for the heating of homes and other buildings where there is sufficient density of demand to support the creation of a hot water network.

EN 307: We will accelerate the development of 'smart grid' technology, demand management and load shifting technologies, as well as heat and electricity storage technologies to enable decentralised energy systems, and creating job opportunities within Wales.

EN 308: We will support the installation of genuinely smart meters in all buildings linked to smart appliances (such as smart fridges and air conditioning) that will automatically respond to fluctuations in supply and demand to minimise energy use and align periods of heavy usage with times of low cost, according to user preference.

EN 309: Wales Green Party will support research and development in demand reduction and efficiency techniques and materials. Modern methods of construction will be promoted on new homes to improve energy efficiency and reduce construction costs.

EN 310: We will support research and development in energy storage (both small and large scale) and demand balancing technologies, which will create high value employment opportunities, especially for young people in Wales.

EN 311: We will support research into methods of financing energy efficiency and renewables including the accurate pricing-in of co-benefits such as pollution reduction and other strategic effects.

EN 312: The Wales Green Party will continue to offer centrally funded energy efficiency programmes for fuel poor households in Wales, on both a demand led and by-area basis. We would improve on previous schemes by widening eligibility beyond purely financial need to include people with health conditions that leave them at risk from the cold, households with children whose education is suffering from living in a cold home, and others who miss out under the current system. Employment in energy efficiency will offer opportunities for those hardest hit by the pandemic.

EN 313: The excess winter deaths figures for Wales are consistently shockingly high. So our energy efficiency scheme would be complemented by an emergency cold weather plan. This would ensure older people, disabled people, and others with health conditions affected by the cold could access funding or temporarily borrow equipment to heat their home during dangerously cold weather. It would also provide support for people who were being prevented from being discharged from hospital because their home was dangerously cold.

## **Energy Generation**

EN 401: The Welsh Government must show leadership in renewable energy generation, installing solar PV on the entire public sector estate. The balance of the government's own energy requirements should be met directly from renewable energy generators in Wales through power purchase agreements. This will have clear and direct impacts on renewable energy deployment.

EN 402: The Welsh Government should place further emphasis on the powers that it has to support the delivery of and investment in all forms of renewable energy generation, recognising that the level of support required will depend on the maturity of each technology type, and that onshore wind and solar PV provide the cheapest forms of renewable energy generation.

EN 403: Wales Green Party will drive prosperity and equality in the energy system, through training and upskilling of the workforce to deliver the needs to the green economy. Restructuring the energy system, investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy will generate value and employment opportunities for Wales. We will actively support young people aspiring to work in green energy jobs.

EN 403: Wales Green Party will accelerate the complete decarbonisation of electricity generation. We will rapidly develop new renewable energy capacity to meet reducing final energy demand. Onshore wind and solar will make the most significant contribution, followed by offshore wind. Acceleration of tidal range, tidal stream, wave and floating wind technology deployment will help retain local benefit and provide the potential for Wales to demonstrate international leadership.

EN 404: Wales Green Party will accelerate the hydrogen economy, to deliver investment in green hydrogen production, linked to industrial clusters and regional development plans, and use across the energy and transport sectors. This will ensure that employment and growth opportunities are captured for people in Wales.

EN 405: The Wales Green Party will strengthen the commitment to community renewable energy generation to further support the deployment of community owned renewables, and ensure that community benefit contributions from large renewable energy schemes are used to capture benefit for local communities.

EN 406: The Wales Green Party support the Swansea Tidal Bay Lagoon project, as a path-finder to support tidal lagoon technology and deliver benefit to local communities and provide local employment.

EN 407: Rapid deployment of solar photovoltaics will be fully supported, making full use of domestic, commercial and industrial roofspace and 'solar farms'.

EN 408: We will urgently review UK potential for hydropower and will support in particular medium and small-scale installations, and community schemes. We will develop the capacity of pumped storage for demand balancing, subject to stringent environmental and community safeguards.

EN 409: Wales Green Party would also accelerate the development of heat production from low carbon renewable sources through the deployment of renewable heat sources including heat pumps (air, water and ground source) and solar thermal.

EN 410: We will urgently review land and marine planning guidance and establish a clear presumption in favour of renewable energy sources – in particular mid-scale and community-owned renewables - but within the context of environmental impact legislation to ensure protected areas are not harmed, biodiversity is safeguarded and the needs of people and wildlife are considered. We will require local councils to integrate their energy plans with national land use planning guidance. Councils will also need to work to integrate and align with the Welsh National Marine Plan for development planning offshore.

EN 411: We will cancel construction of new nuclear stations and nuclear power will not be eligible for government subsidy; the Green Party opposes all nuclear power generation and is particularly opposed to the construction of new nuclear power stations, electricity from which is likely to be significantly more expensive per unit supplied than other low-carbon energy sources, and too slow to deploy to meet our pressing energy needs. Cancellation will avoid the costs and dangers of nuclear energy and waste being passed on to future generations long after any benefits have been exhausted.

EN 412: Incineration of municipal, commercial and industrial waste is not required for energy generation, therefore all existing waste incineration stations will be phased out as soon as possible.

EN 413: We will support research and development and cost reduction for renewable and low carbon power generation technologies, making use of Wales' industrial clusters in the context of a green recovery and providing future resilience. Collaboration with Welsh Universities, research institutes, and businesses will provide a platform for Wales to lead the transition.

EN 414: We will commit to install rooftop PV on every suitable roofspace on a public sector building in Wales. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure will be integrated into energy management plans for buildings, providing the opportunity for energy storage and local demand management. Solar PV car ports will be installed in every suitable publicly owned car park in Wales.

## **Empower Energy Democracy and Support**

### **Local Culture**

EN 501: The Wales Green Party will ensure that Welsh Government gains control of the regulation and implementation of democratic control of suppliers and retailers. This would enable the Welsh Government to target development through power purchase agreements and energy auctions to the technologies and areas in which most support is needed.

EN 502: We will diversify the ownership of energy generation and ensure democratic control. We will encourage the ownership of decentralised energy production and energy saving by community and municipal companies. This will be enabled through favourable supply and demand as well as relief from all transmission charges and disproportionate distribution charges for local generation. Small-scale and community owned renewables will be provided with financial support for installations of up to 50MW. Community groups, cooperatives and local authorities would be supported by the Development Bank of Wales to purchase renewable power plant and contribute to local energy supply at competitive rates.

EN 503: The Wales Green Party will seek to promote and support community groups, local authorities, housing associations, and other organisations which want to set up independent energy supply companies as community benefit companies selling to Welsh customers. We would offer them financial support, in the form of loans, to aid them in setting up such companies. We would learn from the experiences of similar ventures in other parts of the UK, working in partnership where appropriate.

EN 504: All energy providers and regulators would be required to provide access to all of their services and proposals in Welsh. New employment opportunities will be created, for example in servicing the transition to electric vehicles in Welsh.

### **Leadership and Skills**

EN 601: Wales Green Party will keep the effectiveness of demand reduction and efficiency policies, and decarbonisation of the economy under regular review to ensure that net zero is achieved by 2030.

EN 602: Wales Green Party will require local councils to develop energy plans for their areas and ensure that they are resourced to do so. These plans will be aligned with national demand reduction, energy efficiency and energy generation targets.

EN 603: Wales Green Party will develop the institutional arrangements for collaboration across the public and private sector, ensuring accountability and clear responsibilities for decarbonisation across National Government, Local Government and the Regional Development Boards.

EN 604: Energy related planning matters are devolved to Welsh Ministers as Developments of National Significance (DNS) for Generating Stations between 10MW and 350MW. The Wales Green Party supports the introduction for further consolidated powers, including planning for connected grid infrastructure upgrades (essential for the delivery of renewable energy projects) to be granted through the new Welsh Infrastructure Consenting (WIC) regime.

EN 605: Wales Green Party will ensure rapid development of skills required for demand reduction and energy efficiency and will expand, in cooperation with the vocational, education and training sector, a major programme to develop the skilled workforce capable of supporting the pace of programmes required to meet demand reduction and energy efficiency targets. We will also ensure provision of training for expert assessment and monitoring of performance and compliance across the energy spectrum.

EN 606: We will support continuing professional development programmes to ensure trainers are adequately qualified and experienced, and will ensure that energy efficiency modules within college and apprenticeship frameworks are mandatory.

EN 607: Training programmes will be jointly funded with industry to develop the skill base needed in energy management, assessment and monitoring, as well as in energy-related construction, manufacturing and design professions.

EN 608: We will ensure the skilled workforce needed for the change to low carbon energy is provided through the rapid expansion of training, 'upskilling' and skills transfer programmes aimed at creating the substantial work force needed to support the change to renewable energy generation, supply and distribution.

EN 609: In Wales, training programmes will be targeted at those areas which will see the greatest impact from the switch to renewable energy (e.g. around existing fossil and nuclear power plants) and in the regions which are likely to have higher deployment of wind and hydro technologies (e.g. mid-Wales and North Wales). We will work to ensure that young people have the support and skills they require to work within the Green Economy.

## 9. Town and Country Planning

### Vision

The Green Party Cymru needs distinctive, Wales-specific and aspirational planning policies to:

- Meaningfully respond to the climate emergency declared by the Welsh Government, by building sustainable and resilient places to in turn create a sustainable and resilient society;
- Reinforcing Welsh culture and community well-being by recognising the needs of all Welsh citizens, including minorities, and by creating spaces which promote equality and support diversity;
- Engage Welsh people's imaginations about planning beyond their perception of a distant,

- unresponsive and bureaucratic process. A Welsh Town and Country Planning system which is tooled up to be more visionary, less bureaucratic and more accountable to local communities.

### **Key Priorities:**

- Shaping places for planetary health, to halt climate change and reverse biodiversity loss, and reduce pollution;
- Supporting a shift to a green economy with community wellbeing at its heart;
- Giving greater prominence to rural issues in Wales, putting agriculture on a sustainable and resilient footing and reconnecting Welsh people to the land;
- Enabling greater public involvement, supporting the Welsh language and culture, and promoting equality for women and minority groups in the planning process.

### **Policies**

#### **Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution**

TCP 101: Welsh Government and local authorities should reform planning policy and regulations to maximise reduction in climate change, biodiversity impacts and pollution.

TCP 102: The planning of settlements and countryside through Development Plans and planning decisions should adopt the principles of:

- Providing, within urban areas, all key facilities and amenities within a 15 minutes journey by public transport, foot or bicycle from home;
- Mixed-use planning, orientated around public transport hubs, that blends residential, commercial, cultural, institutional or entertainment uses into one area, rather than the separation of uses seen in many new developments, which serve to increase unsustainable travel and unconnected communities;
- Using the planning system to invest in ecosystem resilience by providing, enhancing and protecting structural and local landscaping and green spaces (e.g. woodlands, trees), wildlife areas and wildlife corridors, carbon rich habitats, open space for leisure activities, and dark night skies;
- Supporting sustainable agriculture to create a resilient countryside economy which is compatible with a zero-carbon Wales.

TCP 103: Land use planning should exploit the opportunities to provide more sustainable settlement patterns and transport arising from the greater use of digital technologies.

Furthermore, planning policies and decisions should support the provision of the necessary digital infrastructure.

TCP 104: There should be support for an integrated national transport strategy to reduce air pollution, reduce carbon emissions and encourage active travel. This will mean reducing, rather than inducing, demand for car journeys and halting strategic road-building schemes. Planning policies for green transport and infrastructure should facilitate:

- Long-distance, low-carbon public transport to improve sustainable links within regions and between regions and with other countries within the UK and beyond. Permission for the

expansion of Cardiff Airport should be refused. Investment would be shifted away from internal flights and roads to rail and buses to improve north-south public transport links as well as making movement to and from England less reliant on cars and lorries;

- The reopening of railway lines axed during the Beeching cuts;
- Walking and cycling and public transport in urban and rural areas with a recognition that cars will still be required to move around in less densely settled country areas where the focus should be on decarbonising private transport. A switch to electric vehicles and bicycles will help mitigate climate change and pollution levels;
- Designing people-oriented environments and low-traffic neighbourhoods where through traffic is restricted and walking and cycling networks for all are provided with more planting and seating;
- Setting minimum standards for the provision of electric vehicle charging points;
- Setting appropriate standards in urban or rural areas for the number of bicycle storage and car parking spaces to act as a disincentive to car use

TCP 105: Planning policies for green buildings and works should, in general, seek to address climate change through measures of mitigation and, where relevant, adaptation to:

- Protect occupant health and the wider environment by making the best use of site orientation, building form, layout, landscaping and materials to maximise natural light and heat, whilst providing passive cooling and ventilation to avoid internal overheating;
- Incorporate the design features and low-carbon technologies necessary to ensure that the development's use will not result in an increase in emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane;
- Provide convenient facilities for recycling refuse;
- Prioritise future resilience into building design to effectively accommodate decarbonised transport and heating, for example sufficient capacity for electric vehicle charging solutions, provision for bicycle storage and installation of solar panels and ground source heat pumps;
- Utilise materials that do not pollute the environment, have low embodied carbon and are sustainably or locally sourced;
- Aspire towards water neutrality by meeting high water efficiency standards and by incorporating facilities to recycle, harvest and conserve water resources;
- Incorporate methods of construction/demolition/decommissioning which eliminate or, if elimination is not technically feasible, minimise non-recyclable waste;
- Design buildings for as long a life as possible with sufficient flexibility so that a change of ownership and use can readily be accommodated. It should be possible to break down large industrial buildings into a number of smaller occupancies later if this is necessary.

And more specifically:

- Wales Green Party should be seeking to reduce the existing tensions between planning law and related environmental law by integrating spatially applicable environmental regulation into a new overarching Planning and Environment Act.
- Improve the quality of development by promoting the use of Integrated Impact Assessment techniques based on the Well-being of Future Generations Act at an early stage in the design process;
- Require whole-life carbon assessments to be submitted with all planning applications to minimise the use of materials with a high carbon footprint;



- Use the building regulations to ensure that new buildings require little energy for space heating or cooling. This could mean building to a standard equivalent to Passivhaus, compulsory installation of solar panels and ending fossil fuel heating by set dates;
- Support planning applications for clean, decentralised power networks - renewable energy schemes, low carbon heat networks, heat pumps and energy storage - maximising economic and community benefit, whilst minimising environmental and social impacts. This would include granting planning permission for on-shore facilities for off-shore wind and tidal power, on-shore wind, solar power, pumped-storage hydropower, necessary upgrades to the electricity grid, community-scale renewable and low carbon energy projects (e.g. district heat networks, small scale wind and combined heat and power and battery storage facilities);
- Refuse planning applications for development in areas at risk from river or sea flooding or which would create flooding in existing built-up areas;
- Reduce the bureaucratic hurdles to One Planet Development in order to support the creation of zero-carbon housing and the sustainable agriculture.

TCP 106: Derelict land, particularly arising from extractive industries, should be improved for re-use, not only for recreational purposes, but for housing and light industry. Such sites should only be developed in a way which does not lead to the loss of wildlife habitats or biodiversity.

TCP 107: The effects of climate change will mean that it will no longer be practical for the continued use of some sites, including homes, which are now liable to regular flooding. If non-vulnerable uses are not deliverable on these sites, they should be returned to a condition fit for agriculture or otherwise re-landscaped, and the practice of developing reclaimed marshland should be ended.

TCP 108: Planning policies and decisions should support ecologically sustainable development by:

- Regenerating nature and biodiversity in Wales including conserving existing sites that have been identified as ecologically important and managing areas to restore habitats;
- Limiting and removing invasive plant and animal species;
- Promoting sustainable land management systems;
- Protecting soils and important habitats such as woodlands, hedges, wetlands and water courses.

## **Green Wellbeing Economy**

TCP 201: A land value tax should be introduced and the public sector given greater powers to buy land at agricultural prices rather than at the uplift prices created by planning permissions. This will facilitate subsequent development of all types.

TCP 202: The Planning system should support the Wales Centre for Public Policy and Welsh Government published housing targets for an additional 8,700 dwellings every year up until 2031 of which 3,500 would be social sector housing.

TCP 203: The current top down approach where Welsh Government sets housing targets which local planning authorities must meet by allocating sufficient land in Development Plans is not providing sufficient affordable homes and is leading to the granting of planning permission for housing in the wrong places.

TCP 204: The Wales Green Party's planning approach will consider the evidence that new private sector market housing makes a significant contribution to affordable housing and reducing housing costs.

TCP 205: Planning policies should encourage community housing and self-build projects and use Local Development Plans to identify suitable development sites for innovative new housing (e.g. the use of pre-fabricated building techniques).

TCP 206: Use of homes as second homes should require planning permission and applications determined in terms of the impact on community infrastructure and local house prices.

TCP 207: Welsh Government should adopt a tool kit to improve public sector housing provision as there are questions around a lack of skills as well as limited finance which are not satisfactorily answered by housing associations.

TCP 208: Regional planning should encourage the provision of sustainable leisure facilities, to encourage Welsh people to stay within Wales for their holidays.

TCP 209: Priority areas for Solar and Wind Energy, Solar Energy only and District Heat Networks should be established in the final version of Welsh Government's National Development Framework. The Swansea Tidal Bay Lagoon project should be highlighted in the National Development Framework as a path-finder for tidal lagoon technology and for delivering benefits to local communities.

TCP 210: Installation of solar photovoltaics will be supported in principle, with full use made of domestic, commercial and industrial roof space and 'solar farms'. New commercial buildings of significant size will be required to have a green roof or otherwise use their roof space for solar panels.

TCP 211: Planning policies will support the potential for hydropower - in particular medium and small-scale installations, and community schemes – to increase the capacity of pumped storage for demand balancing, subject to stringent environmental and community safeguards.

TCP 212: Planning policies that are based on the growth economy should be replaced by policies that promote long-term well-being. The use of land and buildings should contribute to this through the following planning policies:

- New development should only be allowed on previously developed land unless existing land, buildings and infrastructure are unavailable or unsuitable;
- The use of derelict land should be encouraged unless contamination makes this impractical;
- Opportunities offered by the planning system to address land contamination should be maximised;
- Recycling facilities including storage depots for equipment and materials to be repaired and reused ( e.g. solar panels, batteries ) in suitable locations should be allowed;
- Applications for the extraction and fracking of fossil fuels should be refused;
- Applications for landfill schemes should be refused. Waste incineration plants should only be consented if they convert the waste to energy and usable heat, if the CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions are equal to or lower than those created by sending the waste to landfill, and subject to strict pollution controls;

- Applications for tourism contributing to economic development, conservation, rural diversification, urban regeneration, social inclusion, and sense of place, and where it supports the needs of visitors and local communities, should be permitted;
- Broadband infrastructure should be encouraged in the right locations to improve connectivity and deliver decarbonisation by reducing the need to travel. Mobile operators should share masts to maximise use of infrastructure and minimise impact on the landscape.

TCP 213: Where it is necessary for employment uses to be isolated, as may be the case with certain industrial operations, it should still incorporate soft landscaping and, where appropriate, pedestrian and bicycle access.

TCP 214: Local planning authorities will be encouraged to ensure their planning policies promote development opportunities for small independent retailers where these developments (such as central collection hubs, delivery vehicle parking) would enable them to compete effectively with online retailing.

TCP 215: Local planning authorities will be encouraged to review their future need for burial space, to include provision for woodland and other environmentally friendly forms of burial.

TCP 216: The use of land for sustainable food production should be supported by policies for the provision of allotments, urban farms and small-holdings particularly within settlements and on the urban fringe where services and public utilities can be provided sustainably.

TCP 217: Buildings of special architectural and historic interest need to be preserved for future generations and to retain attractive areas for visitors and local communities. The present regulations and guidance for conservation areas and listed buildings should be maintained and improved to provide incentives for the retention of listed structures and to protect or enhance the character of conservation areas.

TCP 218: Legal sanctions must be stiffened against those who demolish listed buildings, or who allow them to fall into a state of disrepair. The law should be reviewed so as to not penalise local planning authorities taking action. Relevant bodies must make proper use of legislation enabling them to do this and must be provided with sufficient financial and staffing resources to operate an effective enforcement function.

TCP 219: While protecting heritage assets will be given full consideration, this will not be given undue priority over desirable renewable energy developments in the locality.

TCP 220: Living with Covid-19 and any future pandemics will need settlement patterns and physical and social infrastructure to be more resilient, with careful consideration of, among other things:

- Building for better and more equal societies where cooperation is fundamental;
- Planning for the land use implications of possible behaviour changes resulting from a move from economic growth and consumerism to giving greater priority to wider well-being (E.g. less time spent on work and shopping and more time spent on leisure and social activities);
- Changing the physical environment to reduce the risk of viruses being spread. Any policy changes will need to be balanced against wider environmental considerations;

- Possible pressures to move from cities to the countryside;
- The advantages and disadvantages of urban settlements based on high density development and public transport. Temporary measures during the pandemic have supported active travel and sustainability (Cardiff city centre for example) and could become permanent to promote climate and social justice as well as healthier urban environments;
- Empty offices becoming hubs for local people. This would be similar to a managed workspace approach with a Not-for-Profit refurbishment of suitable buildings;
- The long-term future of traditional institutions like the office or the school;
- Designing housing to cope with more home-working and need for external outdoor space and community interaction. This would involve encouraging 'doorstep activities' (e.g. skateboarding) and active play to improve physical and mental health - there could be a place for the old idea of 'play streets';
- Access to public open space becoming a crucial locational factor for major development;
- Valuing local green spaces and wildlife areas especially for those with no access to private gardens;
- Using the building regulations to favour flexible layouts with moveable walls rather than traditional building techniques.

## Rural Affairs

TCP 301: We will:

- Make rural communities rewarding places to live and work in, reducing and reversing rural depopulation and out-migration.
- Encourage the development of thriving rural communities by extending environmental and social considerations into all areas of decision-making.
- Reduce land speculation in land in rural areas.

TCP 302: We will encourage the extension of 'green wedges' into cities and towns.

TCP 303: Green Belts are a popular concept but in reality, often protect non-descript landscape, force up house prices within Green Belts, prevent development on suitable land and encourage development beyond the Green Belt forcing longer commutes. We will examine the evidence for revising Green Belt policies so that they are no longer a barrier to revitalising the countryside and improving the quality of life for people in cities and large towns.

TCP 304: Welsh Government policies on agriculture, forestry and rural areas should be urgently overhauled with the three aims of:

- Reducing their impact on climate change;
- Increasing resilience to climate change effects;
- Increasing biodiversity and bio abundance.

TCP 305: Planning policies should recognise that some land management of the Welsh countryside has had negative impacts. Now the priority should be to use planning legislation to restore these areas and conserve, and where possible enhance, valuable landscape, ecological, geological, historical, archaeological, cultural and agricultural features. Planning authorities should adopt policies and make decisions, with appropriate conditions or legal agreements, to support among other things:

- Protection, enhancement and creation of carbon sinks (e.g. forests, peatland) and use of the countryside for renewable energy sources to help mitigate the effects of climate change;
- Low emission farming practices and preventing pollution from over-intensive agriculture;
- Reforestation and growing native tree species;
- Development of a Welsh forestry and wood products industries consistent with biodiversity objectives;
- Increasing food security and facilitating a greater connection between local food production and sustainable consumption;
- Rewilding of land.

These measures would make a significant contribution to carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, water quality improvement, increased health and well-being, enhancement of biodiversity and landscape amenity value.

TCP 306: All minerals extraction in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be opposed, except small-scale operations which produce materials for local building and repair.

TCP 307: The planning system should balance countryside conservation against the economic, social and recreational needs of rural communities and visitors. In dealing with issues of rural poverty and access to services, Green planning policies should support vibrant communities and availability of services in rural areas to promote well-being. Most new development should be located in existing settlements, especially those served by public transport. New enterprises and the expansion of existing businesses should be encouraged to support growth and stability in sustainable locations.

TCP 308: The Wales Green Party should support measures to make the rural exceptions housing policy more effective in delivering affordable housing to meet the objectives of the Well Being legislation.

TCP 309: Local planning authorities should adopt a positive approach to rural diversification and tourism. Small business activities sustainably located on farms and other rural locations can provide important additional income streams and safeguard rural communities and Welsh culture.

TCP 310: Planning controls should be strengthened for large-scale or damaging land-use changes in the countryside, in particular, large-scale intensive farm buildings, new and improvement works by drainage bodies and water authorities, clearances of woodland, works affecting woodland and large-scale afforestation.

TCP 311: Planning authorities must protect the best and most versatile agricultural land by not allowing development on the Agricultural Land Classification Grades 1, 2 and 3A and to direct development to land of the lowest grade in the area.

TCP 312: Recognising that most agricultural operations do not require planning permission, planning policies should support agricultural reform in Wales to:

- Promote low carbon food production which, in some cases, may involve a change from animal husbandry to crops grown for direct human consumption;

- Favour development required to provide sound livelihoods to sustain small family farms and small holdings, especially those farmers transitioning to more ecologically based production;
- Restore and enhance landscapes which reduce flood risks;
- Promote rewilding, especially in overgrazed and ecologically damaged upland settings.

TCP 313: Telecommunications infrastructure should be carefully planned in sensitive landscapes and other designated areas. Rural areas are affected economically and socially by lack of mobile coverage and planning policies should support proactive and sensitive provision.

### **Promoting public involvement, the Welsh language and culture, and greater equality**

TCP 401: Planning decisions should be taken at as decentralised a level as reasonably possible. Although some national or regional level development frameworks may be sensible and necessary, Local Planning Authorities should retain democratic accountability for the development and therefore the planning process within their boundaries.

TCP 402: The Welsh Government will be given the right to determine large energy and industrial developments which have the potential impact on multiple areas and which are of significance across Wales, such as incinerators, new ports, tidal barrages, nuclear plants. The policy approach should be set out in the National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans.

TCP 403: Energy related planning matters are devolved to Welsh Ministers as Developments of National Significance (DNS) for generating stations between 10MW and 350MW. The Wales Green Party supports the introduction for further consolidated powers to Welsh Government, including planning for connected grid infrastructure upgrades (essential for the delivery of renewable energy projects), to be granted through a new bespoke Welsh Infrastructure Consenting (WIC) regime which would act as a new one-stop.

TCP 404: There should be a statutory requirement that planning's place-making role is a fundamental part of the preparation of Councils' Well Being Plans. This will enable planning authorities to engage with stakeholders to set out a broad vision for their areas based on the Development Plan.

TCP 405: Wales Green Party supports the integration of Place Plans into the Development Plan-making process as a means of community involvement in policy formulation. All communities should be enabled to undertake place planning regardless of their financial means or level of expertise.

TCP 406: There should be a statutory requirement for citizen engagement in controversial development plan proposals and planning applications through:

- Allowing limited third party rights of appeal for those with strong connections to the local community. This should focus on those types of cases which give greatest grounds for concern about quality, transparency, probity and accountability in the development control process. This is expected to raise public confidence in the planning system and introduce higher standards for determining planning applications. Whilst this will have impacts on the speed of planning decisions, these will be outweighed by the benefits.

- The use of deliberative democracy events, such as citizens' assemblies and 'planning for real exercises', with greater delegation to professional officers. This will involve elected representatives giving up some of their powers to make decisions.

TCP 407: Wales Green Party supports the statutory requirement to take into account the use of the Welsh language in Local Development Plans and in making decisions on planning applications. Local planning authorities should only permit development which does not adversely impact the use of the Welsh language.

TCP 408: Local planning authorities should protect areas and assets of cultural and historic significance and maximise their relationship with the tourism industry.

TCP 409: The needs of disadvantaged or marginalised groups ( e.g. women, travellers, disabled people, poor people, young people, older people ), that have received insufficient consideration in the past, will be a material consideration in shaping places for mobility, caring roles, public health and safety. Particular consideration should be given to shaping areas to provide for those people where homeworking is unrealistic.

TCP 410: When planning the physical environment, the Wales Green Party will promote 'doorstep activities' and active play such as skateboarding, rollerblading, street games.

## 10. Health and Social Welfare

### Introduction

HE 100: For several decades, Wales had a health system largely administered through the United Kingdom Government's Welsh Office. From 1999 responsibilities for healthcare started to be devolved to Wales, so currently legislation and policy for health can be considered a devolved matter.

HE 101: Since then, differences between the policy approach and framework in England and that in Wales have widened. The internal market introduced in the United Kingdom NHS in the 1990s created a separation between purchasers and providers. This system does not exist in Wales. In 2009, seven Local Health Boards (LHBs) were created, responsible for all aspects of planning and providing health services in their geographical areas. The boards of these bodies, together with those of the three remaining NHS trusts (for ambulance services, specialized cancer care and public health), are appointed by and accountable to the Minister for Health and Social Services. There is no formal competition between providers.

HE 102: Patients' views are reflected through the internal mechanisms of LHBs and the statutory community health councils rather than through choice of provider. LHBs operate within a policy framework determined by the Welsh Government and plan services accordingly. Because of the country's small size and the absence of an organizational level between the local and national, political involvement in local decision-making is sometimes strong.

HE 103: Responsibility for social services lies with 22 local authorities, which are required to work in partnership with the NHS and the third (non-profit-making) sector. Separate regulatory bodies

for health (Healthcare Inspectorate Wales) and social care (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) and the Wales Audit Office report independently on service performance.

HE 104: The Wales Green Party is committed to Health and Social Care remaining as devolved functions, overseen by the Welsh Government, and not to become traded by Westminster as part of a UK single market.

### **Vision and Strategic Objectives**

HE 200: Wales Green Party supports the WHO organisation's principle that all people should enjoy the highest standard of health, regardless of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. The WHO Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to transform our world. They are a call to action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice and prosperity. It is critical that no one is left behind. In 2015, all the countries in the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It sets out 17 Goals, which include 169 targets. These wide-ranging and ambitious Goals interconnect and are fully supported by WGP. WGP supports an integrated approach to Health, Wellbeing and Illness Prevention with many links to other policy areas including Housing, Transport, Energy and green space access in Planning.

### **Challenges**

HE 300: The NHS in Wales like other developed nations, faces a set of increasingly significant challenges in continuing to deliver high standards of health outcomes. These include: Health Inequality, Changing Patients' Health Needs and Personal Preferences

HE 301: Improvements in health have not been shared equally. Life expectancy for the most deprived fifth of the population has risen more slowly than for any other group.

HE 302: Many of the causes of poor health are deep-rooted and they are often difficult to tackle. Along with other countries, Wales faces an obesity epidemic and rates of smoking, drinking and substance misuse continue to cause concern. Austerity has affected Wales badly and has generated greater demands on the NHS.

HE 303: Within two decades it is estimated almost one in three people in Wales will be aged 60 or over. By 2031, the number of people aged 75 or over will have increased by 76 per cent. As people age they are more likely to have at least one chronic condition – an illness such as diabetes, dementia or arthritis – and have more as their age increases.

HE3 04: Wales currently has the highest rates of long-term limiting illness in the UK, which is the most expensive aspect of NHS care accounting for 70% of the health budget. This is a continuing legacy of post-industrial communities. Between 2001/02 and 2010/11 the number of people with a chronic or long-term condition in Wales increased from 105,000 to 142,000 (source The 2015 Challenge for NHS Wales 2015).

HE 305: Many people now want to be better informed and more involved with their own care breaking down the traditional barrier between patient and health professional.



## **Technological Advances**

HE 310: There have been unprecedented changes in treatments, technologies and care delivery. Technology is transforming our ability to predict, diagnose and treat disease. New treatments are coming on stream. And we know, both from examples within the NHS and internationally, that there are better ways of organising care, breaking out of the artificial boundaries between hospitals and primary care, between health and social care, between generalists and specialists. These boundaries can get in the way of care that is genuinely coordinated around what people need and want.

## **Rising Costs**

HE 320: The cost of providing care is rising. The NHS now delivers a much more extensive and sophisticated range of treatments and procedures than could ever have been envisaged at its creation and delivers these services to an increasing number of citizens.

HE 321: Wales is the poorest region of the whole UK. This poverty often contributes to poor health, and the effects of this have been compounded by welfare reform. Evidence has suggested that economic downturns lead to short and long-term health effects.

HE 322: As demand has increased, finances have become more constricted for NHS Wales. Health spending is a significant percentage of the Welsh Government budget, the 2020-21 budget indicates budget of around £8.8 billion for health and social services. Around £6.8 billion was spent on health in 2018-19. Funding gaps are still problematic.

## **Rural Areas**

HE 330: The delivery of health care is more difficult and more costly in rural areas compared with urban areas. The average population density in Wales is 35% of the density in England. The present allocation of funding from the UK treasury does not fully take into account the rural nature of much of Wales. The challenges for the delivery of care to rural communities are detailed below.

HE 331: First, populations in rural towns and villages are relatively small compared with the larger cities and towns of Wales and the road and rail links between them are sometimes difficult. This poses challenges both for those delivering services and for patients in respect of the distances from fixed centres or the travel times to patients at home.

HE 332: Second, retaining or acquiring the necessary skilled staff from the conurbations where they are trained and with which they and their families have some affinity. Too often the advantages of professional practice in rural communities are overlooked by clinicians and training bodies.

HE 333: Third, the scale of operation in rural settings is inevitably geared to the size of the populations concerned and this means that services do not have the resilience in the event that skilled staff leave or are absent for periods of ill health, training or personal development.

HE 334: Fourth the trend over the past 20 years has been one of increasing specialisation in medicine. Such specialisation results in each specialist needing to serve a far larger population than the previous generalist. In addition the complexity of some care requires additional adjacent

clinical expertise – e.g. in anaesthetic and diagnostic support – if the full benefits of skilled expertise are to be realised. This leads to more and more hospital services being concentrated onto fewer and fewer hospital sites that, in turn, tend to be set within the larger towns and cities of Wales.

HE 335: Fifth, as the geographical distances increase between hospital-based staff and community-based health staff, there is less likelihood that health staff from both traditions will mix socially and professionally. This reduces avenues for exchange and the building of trust and understanding between them.

HE 336: Sixth, patients with minor injuries or illnesses are accustomed to call into local facilities for out-of-hours treatment, even when those facilities are not designed to deliver such care. Community hospitals in particular are still seen by residents as places where such care is available and responding to these demands in a safe way has proved to be a challenge.

## **Policies**

### **Public Health**

HE 400: Wales Green Party will put greater emphasis on promoting public health and reducing health inequalities rather than seeing the NHS as an illness service. We will do this through policies designed to: secure a healthy urban and rural environment (for example using green spaces in urban environments); healthy work; healthy sexual behaviour; increase physical activity; reduce consumption of tobacco, alcohol, drug use and gambling; support healthy agriculture and food; support healthy education; support a healthy transport system; and healthy local economic development. It is acknowledged that reducing health inequalities requires action across all social determinants of health e.g housing and employment policies. In particular this will be achieved through:

HE 401: Ensuring all babies will be given the best start in life through investing in parental support, breastfeeding and early years play and education.

HE 402: Ensuring all children and young people will be given the opportunity to develop essential life skills through receiving personal, social, health, economic, sex and relationship education at school.

HE 403: Ensuring every child will have at least two hours of physical activity a week at school.

HE 404: Looking at the feasibility of further regulations and laws that will save lives. These include further restrictions on the marketing of foods high in sugar, salt and fat to children; introducing a duty on sweetened beverages; introducing a minimum unit price for alcohol; implementation of standardised packaging for tobacco and mandate a 20 mph speed limit in all built up areas.

HE 405: Enabling people to achieve a good quality of life through giving everyone on paid employment and training a living wage.

HE 406: Active Travel: Investing in public transport and infrastructure to support active travel, such as walking and cycling. We will strengthen the planning process to make services and amenities more accessible by foot, cycle and public transport to increase levels of physical activity.

HE 407: Implementing a trans-national approach to meet climate change targets including a rapid move to 100% renewables and a zero carbon energy system.

HE 408: Ensuring that essential dentistry, including check up, is provided free under the NHS.

## **Quality**

HE 410: Wales Green Party will ensure that health care services are delivered with compassion, taking into consideration patients full range of needs, health care will be delivered in an environment that promotes healing and care. This includes single sex wards in hospitals, ensuring that maternity care is of the highest quality and ensuring that care reflects people's needs.

HE 411: Mental and emotional health will be given equal status to physical health in the planning, provision and monitoring of services.

HE 412: We would review the make up of Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts and ensure there is proper accountability to the local population and they are fit for purpose.

HE 413: We support the recent revision of the Health and Care Standards (2015) and wish to see Local Health Boards held to account for meeting these. Local people should decide what and how services are provided and Local Health Boards should have complete flexibility to meet local needs as long as services meet minimum standards.

HE 414: Wales Green Party emphasises the primacy of quality of patient care especially patient safety; the engagement, empowerment and listening to the patient/carer voice; the development of staff especially in quality improvement skills; transparency, accountability and the growth of clinical knowledge.

HE 415: We would also support a review of the regulatory system in health and social support to ensure it was fit for purpose and consider merging the two inspectorates. This is urgent particularly in the light of the failings of the system during the COVID pandemic. There is a case for the approach to patient safety to be reviewed and for the inspectorates and regulators to adopt a renewed focus on this with guidance informed by the lessons of the pandemic.

HE 416: We welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to replace Community Health Councils with a new body working across Health and Social Care. This new body should be fully funded in order to keep up with the pace of change of the service they are designed to oversee and fully discharge its functions.

## **Patient Centred Care**

HE 420: Wales Green Party believes that the NHS in Wales has to become a People-Centred Health System (WHO 2013) that prioritises individuals, their families and communities and serves the population of Wales.

HE 421: The traditional divide between primary care, community services, and hospitals - largely unaltered since the birth of the NHS - is increasingly a barrier to the personalised and coordinated

health services patients need. And just as GPs and hospitals tend to be rigidly demarcated, so too are social support and mental health services even though people increasingly need all three.

HE 422: The COVID pandemic has seen a collapse in Patient Centred Care, especially for older people, disabled people and those who are immunocompromised'. In addition, there has been a disproportionate health effect for BAME and a range of other disadvantaged groups. The Wales Green Party calls for a public inquiry, taking evidence from patients, relatives, staff at all levels and GPs, to ensure that lessons are learnt for future planning.

HE 423: Over the next few years the NHS will increasingly need to dissolve these traditional boundaries. Long term conditions are now a central task of the NHS; caring for these needs requires a partnership with patients over the long term rather than providing single, unconnected 'episodes' of care. As a result there is now a consensus on the direction we need to take.

- Increasingly we need to manage systems – networks of care – not just organisations.
- Out-of-hospital care needs to become a much larger part of what the NHS does.
- Services need to be integrated around the patient. For example a patient with cancer needs their mental health and social care coordinated around them. Patients with mental illness need their physical health addressed at the same time.
- We should learn much faster from the best examples, not just from within the UK but internationally.
- And as we introduce them, we need to evaluate new care models to establish which produce the best experience for patients and the best value for money

HE 424: We will encourage new models to develop locally that put the patient in the centre of service delivery. We will also review the Primary care contract to ensure it is aligned with patient centred care. We support the move of Primary care to population based capitation, outcomes focused and developing networks of practices.

HE 425: We will integrate health and social support by ensuring they work together and will consider whether any restructuring or legislation is required to achieve this. In order for this urgent restructuring to work, social support should be taken out of the for-profit system and run as a not-for-profit service.

HE 426: Patient engagement is a priority in healthcare and Wales Green Party supports the delivery of patient online access to their records and the development of Personal Health Records (PHR).

HE 427: We will support stronger partnerships with third sector organisations who can provide information, advice, advocacy and services particularly to hard to reach underserved groups through simplified and multiyear contracts.

## **Finance**

HE 430: Wales Green Party is committed to universal healthcare system free at the point of use funded through general taxation.

HE 431: Health spending in Wales needs to reflect the needs of the country and should be maintained at around the average in the European Union.

HE 432: We would establish a national transformation fund for new models of care. Additional financial support will keep necessary services going while new models of care are developed. The fund should be available to every health board to drive the move towards models of care that will lead to more efficient, integrated care in the future.

## **Workforce**

HE 440: Wales Green Party believes that planning for a workforce to better match changing demand is key to the success of Wales NHS. Developing staff roles and skills to provide complex, multidisciplinary, coordinated care, in partnership with individuals and communities.

HE 441: Mental health and learning disability services have already undergone a change from institutional care to community- based care for many people, but more skilled personnel are required in community-based and primary health care settings.

HE 442: Changing health needs as the population ages may create a need for more community nursing support, and training and support for carers and volunteers.

HE 443: Advances in technology may require different specialist skills, such as tele-medicine, and the provision of more community based clinics run by a range of appropriately qualified health providers.

HE 444: There will be an increased need for support and supervision of professionals in training, pre- registration and post-registration, as well as ongoing continuing education, especially in rural areas.

HE 445: Wales Green Party will ensure that the various training bodies are taking the necessary action to ensure that we have the workforce with the right skills and flexibilities to deliver these new models of care.

HE 446: The COVID pandemic has stretched NHS staff to the limit and low rates of pay compound the stress and difficulty of the job. The Wales Green Party supports an immediate pay rise for all staff as called for by Nurses Unions.

HE 447: The COVID pandemic has also shown that levels of staffing need to be reviewed. A resilient system requires more staff to be available to cover for emergency situations.

## **Technology**

HE 450: We believe that using technology will help transform care and enable people to access information and treatment in a way that meets their needs. This will help spread innovation to improve the quality of care while responding to the financial challenge facing the NHS In Wales.

HE 451: Technology can play a key role in patient care and allow service users to avoid having to go to hospital or to their GP for care. Technologies such as telephones, email, computers, interactive video, digital imaging and healthcare monitoring devices, and apps, make it possible for clinicians to monitor, diagnose and treat patients without having to be with them physically. These

technologies offer a great opportunity to increase dramatically the efficiency of the healthcare industry, keeping patients out of hospital and allowing care to be facilitated from the home.

HE 452: Technology also provides opportunities for informing and engaging service users and other individuals, giving them the chance to learn about their healthcare and wellbeing through a number of innovative avenues, including accredited health apps.

HE453: Wales Green Party will encourage the uptake of such technology.

### **Innovation**

HE 460: Medicine is becoming more tailored to the individual through decoding genomes and better understanding of disease.

HE 461: Wales Green Party will support research aimed at improving patient outcomes and ensure a quicker adoption of effective diagnosis and treatments.

HE 462: Around half of all clinical trials have not been published; some trials have not even been registered. If action is not taken urgently, information on what was done and what was found in trials could be lost forever, leading to bad treatment decisions, missed opportunities for good medicine, and trials being repeated unnecessarily. Wales Green Party will ensure all trials past and present will be registered, and the full methods and the results reported.

## **11. Social Services and Social Support**

### **Introduction**

SW 100: Social services in Wales support young, old, and disabled people every year to achieve their potential and help make them safe. Many of these services are delivered in partnership with housing, health or education services. In 2018-19 there were 54,802 assessments concerning children and young people and 63,662,000 assessments of need for adults.

SW 101: Whilst most social support in Wales is provided by private and independent organisations it is largely funded through taxation and is commissioned via 22 local authorities.

SW 102: Wales has a high dependency on welfare with recent changes from Westminster making benefits harder to access. This is resulting in stress and hardship, and in some cases, destitution and homelessness.

SW 103: The policy changes have been assessed and are estimated to reduce annual benefit and tax credit entitlements in Wales.

SW 104: Reforms also affect housing with many claimants losing income.

### **Vision and Strategic Objectives**

SW 200: Wales Green Party will implement policies to promote social welfare for all. We are broadly supportive of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014) which:

- Strengthens powers for the safeguarding of children and adults, so that vulnerable people at risk can be protected more effectively;
- Ensure people are assessed on what they need, rather than just on what services are available locally;
- Introduces portable assessments, which means if people move from one part of Wales to another they will not need to worry about whether they will receive services in their new area;
- Facilitates an increased take up of direct payments to meet people's care and support needs, meaning people will have more control over how these needs are met;
- Introduces a National Outcomes Framework to set out very clearly what children and adults can expect from social services, to measure achievements and see where improvements are needed;
- Introduces equivalent rights for carers so that people who care for someone such as an elderly or disabled relative or friend would get similar rights to the people they care for
- Establishes a National Adoption Service to improve the outcomes of children in need of a permanent family.

SW 201: Wales Green Party believes that we are all interdependent and that many people need support at some stage in their lives. The basic aim is that all people should be able to lead an empowered and fulfilled life. We believe that every individual in society has an equal right to food, water, warmth and housing. We must ensure that robust safeguards are in place to protect the interests of all people.

SW 202: To make life easier for people who need to access several types of service, Wales Green Party would work towards having a single budget covering health and social services and an integrated service. The problems with social services can be seen in part as demand failure. We need to create a system that helps citizens articulate what a good life looks like to them, and to co-produce solutions to help them achieve their good life. This removes the power imbalance between citizen and state and In addition saves money.

SW 203: The Wales Green Party recognises the difficulties of the relationship between a largely privatised social support system and not-for-profit Healthcare Trusts.

SW 204: The policies below cover those areas currently addressed by social services departments - including children and families, older people, mental health, and impairments.

SW 205: Social Welfare provision has often been inadequate, disempowering, discriminatory and ineffective. People in need, who receive a service, too often receive a minimal service, which may be the cheapest option available rather than the option that best promotes independence. The inadequate provision puts stress on both support staff and those receiving the services.

## **Challenges**

SW 300: Social Welfare and society are facing a number of challenges these include:

- What we all expect of public services today is very different from a decade ago.
- Families are now more diverse and technology has transformed how we communicate.
- We are more conscious of our rights. We have stronger expectations about our voice being heard and about control over services we use.

- The demography of our society is changing. We see many more people in their middle years with significant impairments who are able to live fulfilled lives. We are seeing many more children with significant impairments who have high expectations of services.
- Some families and communities have become more fragmented; and issues such as substance misuse are having a major impact.
- Social services and social care are facing real and unsustainable increases in demand and the numbers of looked after children and those on the child protection register are growing. The number of people registered with local authorities in Wales as having a cognitive impairment is increasing and there is an increasing number of older people with complex support needs.
- The financial outlook is difficult and social service departments will be under pressure to make savings.

## **Policies**

### **Universal Basic Income**

SW 400: In so far as it is possible to remedy social problems purely by financial means, Wales Green Party's Universal Basic Income, when implemented will enable people to have a more flexible approach to work, retirement and caring for others.

SW 401: UBI is designed to cover the basic needs of a 'non-disabled' person. Since 1979 the level of benefits for non-disabled people have fallen well below this level; consequently, the supplements necessary to bring payments for people with physical, mental health or neurological conditions, up to an adequate level are considerably larger than they will need to be in conjunction with UBI when that is fully implemented.

SW 402: Wales Green Party acknowledges the current position of benefits however it would work towards streamlining it in the short and medium term and replacing it with Universal Basic Income in the long term.

### **Children and Families**

SW 410: Wales Green Party believes that all children should be treated with respect and given full opportunity with whatever support may be required to live in a caring and nurturing environment.

SW 411: However, although families are often thought of as the ideal social institution to bring up children, many children do not live in nuclear families and sometimes a child's parents cannot or do not want to look after them.

SW 412: Wales Green Party recognises the many challenges and stresses that parenting can bring and will support and encourage a wide range of community and self help services for children and their carers e.g. Homestart, family centres, adopt-a- grandparent schemes.

SW 413: We believe that services for children need to be holistic and integrated, recognising both the needs of the child and their families and carers. This may involve increased expenditure over current levels, but effectively meeting the needs of children and their families and carers will produce a healthier, more balanced and secure society, with reduced costs in criminal justice, social services and other areas of spending.



SW 414: Childminders will continue to be registered and monitored, with free training, including training in nutrition, given to all. We recognise that childminders often have a low income and are seen as having a low social status. We believe that bringing up children is a very important job, and would seek to improve the standing of childminders whilst making sure that they earn a living wage for what is a demanding job, while maintaining the affordability of care.

SW 415: Nurseries and children's centres will be monitored for quality of care and the information made readily available. Special attention will be given to ratios of adult carers to children. Nursery staff will be given adequate training, including training in nutrition.

SW 416: Nannies will be registered on a national register, enabling families to check the suitability of their potential employee. The treatment of au pairs will be regulated to stop them from being exploited by their employers.

SW 417: Working grandparents will be given the same right to request flexi-work as parents if caring for grandchildren.

SW 418: We would extend the hours of nursery/children's centre entitlement for children aged 3 and 4, this and try to give parents and carers as much flexibility as possible in terms of times and locations. The provision of occasional 'ad hoc' care will be encouraged and facilitated.

SW 419: Children's centres will engage in active outreach work to make contact with socially excluded families to ensure that their children's development is not endangered and to encourage the parents and carers to access free local activities for children.

SW 420: Parents and carers in a community will be encouraged to set up networks of babysitters and playgroups. This would aid both children's development and community cohesion.

SW 421: Children with additional learning needs will have the enhanced level of care they need, with all of their carers given up-to-date disability equality training so that they can care for the child in the way that suits him/her best.

SW 422: Family courts and mediation should help to find the right solution for each child in the event of family breakdown with children being given a say in their future.

## **Older People**

SW 430: Ageism is rife in our society and many industries and companies are not interested in employing people despite their knowledge, stability and reliability.

SW 431: Retirement means that people no longer get paid for the work they do but that does not mean they stop working. Our Universal Basic Income scheme would enable retirement age to be completely flexible recognising that some want to retire as soon as possible and others want to continue working.

SW 432: Many voluntary organisations depend on the work and commitment of people who have retired from paid work. Traditional economics ignores such contributions but Universal Basic Income will enable people to work part-time, flexible hours and home working.

SW 433: We support legislation that would direct that Social Support be run strictly as a not-for-profit service by companies or organisations with legally binding social and environmental objectives.

SW 434: We believe the direction outlined in the Barker Report 2014 is the correct one with Social Support funded through the taxation and free at the point of use.

SW 435: The Wales Green Party recognises the hugely important work done by all kinds of paid support staff in residential settings and individuals' homes. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the poor wages and difficulties in accessing training for such workers and we support a review to ensure that this work is considered, valued and paid as a respected profession.

### **Mental Illness and Emotional Vulnerability**

SW 440: Wales Green Party is strongly committed to valuing and supporting people with illness and impairment. Wales Green Party policies address: promoting mental health, preventing mental illness, reducing distress and impairment, promoting recovery and rehabilitation, reducing suicide and reducing other premature death related to mental illness. A comprehensive approach to these goals requires close liaison between the health, social services, education, employment, environment and criminal justice systems at national, local and individual levels.

SW 441: At government and local level, there is a need to work closely with the other key sectors to ensure adequate choice of employment opportunities, leisure opportunities, creative projects, day care, supported housing and provision of psychological and social therapies. At individual level, there is a need to ensure detailed needs assessment and provision of a carefully tailored package to meet individual needs of people and their carers.

### **Disabled People**

SW 450: Wales Green Party has endorsed the social model of disability where there is a recognition that society has put up barriers which prevents disabled people with different impairments from becoming and being full and active citizens. Wales Green Party is strongly committed to valuing, empowering and supporting people with illness and impairments and will ensure that the UN Convention of the Rights of Disabled People (UNCPRD) is adhered to across government policy and legislation.

SW 451: We recognise all people, including people with sensory, learning or physical impairments, mental health issues or who are neuro-diverse, should be able to live in the community with appropriate support if desired.

SW 452: Care packages need to provide appropriate support for any activity or task needed to facilitate the disabled person's functioning. This allows the disabled person to access the same political, social, leisure and work opportunities available to non disabled people.

## 12. Transport

### Vision

TR 100: Wales Green Party policy aims to reduce the need to travel whilst increasing accessibility to public transport. Most of us should be able to walk to work, to local schools and to local shops. We are supportive of and wish to see the development of the 15 minute neighbourhood approach (the aim is to provide all key facilities within 15 minutes) (see TCP 102 above). The creation of strong local economies is vital in this regard because it will mean people need to travel less. Greatly increased investment in active travel infrastructure and public transport is required to ensure accessibility to all, irrespective of age, wealth or impairment, and to have the minimum impact on the environment. Our planning system needs to reflect this approach at the beginning of the process, rather than a retro fit approach after development.

TR 101: A key distinction between our transport policy and others is the emphasis on demand management rather than provision for anticipated demand. We want to provide what is necessary and efficient within ecological constraints. We reject simply providing for anticipated demand as wasteful, damaging and unsustainable. The Covid pandemic and the changes in working habits has shown a different way of working and need for commuting to work can now be questioned. Working remotely is now far more accessible and our transport planning needs to consider this.

TR 102: Our transport policies would therefore favour the following hierarchy: walking, cycling, public transport (which includes taxis), private motorised transport, air transport.

TR 103: We would look to ensure free public transport for local journeys for young people to engender the use of public transport as they enter the workforce and adulthood.

TR 104: We call for the introduction of proportional liability for road users: the duty of care for their actions when using the road should be proportional to the degree of danger that they impose on other road users. Vehicle operators will be presumed liable for collisions with pedestrians and cyclists. The responsibility of highway authorities to investigate RTAs will conform to Health & Safety legislation.

TR 105: We recognise that individual motorised transport will continue to be necessary, alongside modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport. Road pricing is a useful policy lever to tackle congestion and local air pollution in suitable zones and on suitable routes, and differentiated pricing can be used as an instrument to promote the shift towards electric vehicles. Funds raised would be allocated specifically for supporting the shift towards more sustainable forms of transport. The design of urban roads, other than trunk roads, will conform to Manual For Streets as the relevant design guidance. Appropriate crossing of trunk roads by cycling and walking routes will be provided for as a responsibility of Highway Authorities or Agencies.

TR 106: We will encourage the development of car-free city centres, and aim to make these the norm.

TR 107: We will work with all transport providers to ensure we safely benefit from new transport technologies from bike and scooter hire to autonomous transport provision.

TR 108: We recognise that the vast majority of Wales is rural even though most of its

citizens live in urban environments. The economy of Wales does depend on the health of its rural lands, its population and therefore its transport system which therefore needs special attention.

TR 109: Our policies on freight will favour reduction in movement through a reduction in overall consumption and an increase in consumption of locally produced goods, and sustainable methods of movement. We support the transfer of heavy freight from road to rail and water, with investment in associated infrastructure for onward local delivery. "Last mile" delivery will include provision for cargo bike delivery, with associated infrastructure.

TR 110: We will move towards all land transport being zero carbon, initially through battery electric vehicles on roads and electrified rail lines, with fuel cells using green hydrogen later supplementing these.

TR 111: We seek to have full responsibility for transport in Wales under devolved powers rather than the current part measure. We would co-operate with English local authorities and Westminster on issues that affect both Wales and England.

## **Walking**

TR 200: Walking benefits the user through increasing their health and well-being. It has the least environmental impact and is available to use by the greatest number, particularly children. It also benefits the social environment by increasing contact between people.

TR 201: It is recognised that there are some people who are not able to walk or cycle, and for this reason inclusive access is given equal priority.

TR 202: We will introduce a 20 m.p.h. limit throughout built up areas, including villages.

TR 203: All speed limits will be rigorously enforced. Greater use will be made of automatic cameras and other speed measurements. Emphasis on education and training over monetary penalties will be prominent.

TR 204: The Highway Code allows for priority to pedestrians crossing at side road junctions and access roads. We will seek to incorporate this in road design, education and enforcement.

TR 205: We call for promotion of Home Zones where traffic calming measures are employed so that people can chat, play, or sit and watch the world go by in the streets where they live. We support the funding, implementation and monitoring of local School Zones with restricted vehicular access during school times.

TR 206: In residential streets, priority will be given to residents. We encourage residents' initiatives to increase pedestrian space and restrict vehicle carriageway, with physical features effectively limiting speed of vehicles to 10m.p.h. making the streets more inviting to pedestrian.

TR 207: In shopping streets, priority will be given to safe access: widened pavements and, where possible, pedestrianisation. We encourage schemes which allow slow motor transport for shoppers with limited mobility or heavy burdens. In all shopping

streets crossings will be provided at frequent intervals. Inclusive design to allow access for all has to be paramount.

TR 208: All formal pedestrian crossings will be designed to respond quickly to pedestrian demand. Barriers stopping informal crossing of roads should be progressively removed.

TR 209: Street lighting remains necessary to protect the most vulnerable road users. We will encourage better-directed and less energy intensive methods of lighting.

TR 210: We call for provision of safe footpaths and cycle routes between neighbouring communities.

TR 211: We will ensure that pavements are clean and well maintained. We will work with those responsible to address the problem of pavement parking and will work to ensure that the local environment on pavements is well maintained fining those who abuse these community facilities with littering or dog fouling.

TR 212: We will ensure that pedestrian routes are signposted clearly.

## **Cycling**

TR 300: Cycling shares many of the benefits of walking. It is seen as a health magic bullet and it is our aim to make cycling as accessible as possible.

TR 301: We support the requirement of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 for Highway Authorities to prepare integrated route network maps for walking and cycling, to conform to its design guidance, and refer to Planning Policy Guidance in this regard.

TR 302: Local authorities must monitor all roads regularly to ensure that they meet the standard of safety required for cycling. In targeting funding, local authorities should give higher priority to complete routes.

TR 303: Where cycling infrastructure is shared with pedestrians or horse riders, or where the cycling provision on roads is shared with bus priority measures, adequate space must be provided for the two users to share it safely.

TR 304: Where cycling routes are provided which segregate bicycles from other road users, the cycling route will be given priority at junctions over motorised traffic.

TR 305: We will enforce strictly prohibitions on parking and other violation of cycling facilities by motor vehicles.

TR 306: We will provide a national network of longer distance cycling routes, to which local networks will be connected.

TR 307: All large employers and organisations that are publicly accessible must provide for cyclists to be able to leave their bicycles and belongings in safe, secure, dry surroundings. Charging points for electric assist bikes must also be provided.

TR 308: For clusters of small shops or workshops, council or private housing, and public spaces, the local authority or estate owner must also make such provision.

TR 309: We will require that all bicycles sold should be fitted with the latest sustainable technology lighting and warning devices.

TR310 We will support the development of a cycle industry in Wales that provides bikes for hire, bike sharing, bike sales and bike repair.

### **School Transport**

TR 400: Safe routes to schools would be given the highest priority so that most children are able to walk or wheel to school.

TR 401: While walking, wheeling or cycling to school should be the priority for school accessibility, we would include free public transport for young people including children for school journeys.

TR 402: We support the walking bus method of accompanying smaller children to and from school.

TR 403: We support the use of public transport buses for school transport.

### **Public Transport**

TR 500: It is recognised that there is a policy tension between public transport and keeping travellers' safe from the health risks of pandemics. The Green Party will continue to promote the sustainable development benefits of public transport while working to reduce health risks. Temporary measures introduced during the pandemic have supported active travel and sustainability (Cardiff city centre for example) and could become permanent to promote climate and social justice as well as healthier urban environments (see TCP 219).

TR 501: We believe it is the Welsh Government's responsibility to ensure that all areas of Wales are served by a suitable public transport system that is viable under a relevant cost benefit analysis approach. We do not wish to create networks that financially undermine other networks in Wales for the sake of it. We wish to replace a large proportion of the current private motorised journeys where it is feasible to do so, and work to make those that are required as environmentally suitable as possible.

TR 502: Public service, not private profit, must be the primary function of public transport. We support the municipalisation of bus transport services, public funding of essential bus services, a role for local community transport services, and review of the regulatory role of the Transport Commissioner Office for Wales.

TR 503: Fares should be simple and easily understood. There should be schemes which enable young people and unemployed people to travel cheaply or even for nothing. (See YP 500)

TR 504: We support the All Wales Entitlement Card which will make it easier to pay on all services regardless of operator, will make it safer for bus drivers who won't have to handle so much cash and it will make bus journeys quicker.

TR 505: We support the retention of the concessionary bus pass for residents over 60 and people with disabilities. We intend to work with all stakeholders to review all concessions on a regular basis so changes can reflect changes in society.

TR 506: We will extend this to cover those people with impairments who are on the lower rate of PIP mobility component and who are therefore currently barred from the concessionary pass but who frequently are most in need of it, e.g. people on the autism spectrum, people with mental health issues or with a visual impairment, including carers and support staff, if needed as part of their role.

TR 507: We would require all Local Authorities to set up public transport panels with a high proportion of passengers. These panels would steer the management of local public transport provision for the benefit of passengers.

TR 508: We call for better public transport links where they are inadequate and would do a careful analysis and carry out full consultation with all affected groups to find the most sustainable way to plug the gap.

TR 509: We call for increased funding for trains and buses with money coming in part from workplace and shopping centre parking charges.

TR 510: Information on all aspects of public transport, such as tickets, fares, timetables and integration of services, must be easily available to all transport users. All information should be available on the internet and by telephone, and at public libraries and transport information centres at all major public transport interchanges. Information on local services should be available at all bus stops and train stations. All information must be in a simple, easy to understand format and follow the same standard throughout Wales.

TR 511: The provision of this information will be the responsibility of Local Authorities. The Welsh Government will ensure that these responsibilities are clearly laid down in law and are funded appropriately.

TR 512: Local authorities must ensure that all public transport modes are fully integrated with each other where feasible and are easily accessible to all disabled people and those arriving by bicycle and foot.

TR 513: We call for increased provision for inclusive access and cycle transport on trains and buses. All this provision will be at minimum cost to the user if not free.

TR 514: All publicity for tourist places, cycle and walking trails, etc. should show how they can be reached by public transport.

TR 515: We recognise that concern for personal safety is a major barrier to people (particularly women and older people) using public transport. We will invest in general structural improvements in and around bus stops, rail stations and other public transport termini: better lighting, enclosed waiting points, provision of local emergency numbers and electronic information on services, and other security measures such as CCTV.

TR 516: Public transport is dependent upon the goodwill of its workforce, who have to endure unsocial working hours, including split shifts, frustrating working conditions, and, in certain sectors, relatively poor pay. We will seek to alleviate all these factors.

### **Buses and Coaches**

TR 517: We will re-regulate the bus industry, with local authorities in co-operation with Transport for Wales having responsibility, including the setting of routes, frequencies and fares.

TR 518: All new buses will be designed to be accessible to all, and will thus have low floors and adequate internal space for wheelchair users, pushchairs, luggage, and provision for the carriage of bicycles.

TR 519: All buses used in urban and suburban settings will be zero emission by 2030 with other routes becoming low and then zero carbon as soon as possible.

TR 520: Buses should be given priority over private motorised traffic and parking provision.

TR 521: Buses pulling away from bus stops will be given priority over moving traffic.

TR 522: We support the development of better infrastructure to support bus services, including bus stops with seating and shelter, interchange facilities, and bus maintenance facilities.

TR 523: New bus stations must be built adjacent to existing train stations, where practical.

### **Rail**

TR 530: The division of rail and track companies into a competitive rather than a cooperative organisation, and the fragmentation of the rail industry by privatisation, have been disastrous for safety and reliability and the provision of an integrated service.

TR 531: We will work to make trains zero emission through a mix of electrifying lines and the use of battery electric and fuel cell powered trains.

TR 532: We will work with all stakeholders to consider the potential and viability of new routes or opening disused routes.

TR 533: We will bring the rail system, including track and operators, back into public ownership, building on the recent approach in this direction by the Welsh Government.

TR 534: We will open additional stations where practical and viable to give all communities reasonable access to the rail service.

TR 535: Where rail services are reinstated for disused lines that have been converted to pedestrian or cycle paths, we will maintain safe and convenient paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

TR 536: We will make all stations fully accessible to all users. All rail services will have adequate space for those in wheelchairs within areas where passengers are seated.



TR 537: All stations will have secure high quality cycle parking provision. This should include the provision of lockers for overnight parking.

### **Park and Ride**

TR 540: We do not support the introduction of Park and Ride services generally, as they tend to encourage the culture of driving from rural areas to nearby towns and can be detrimental to rural bus services, although we recognise that in some locations where Park and Ride may offer a short term solution.

TR 541: We do not support the building of Park and Ride sites on greenfield land. We will support Park and Tour systems where they are part of a low carbon integrated multi-modal transport system.

### **Taxis and private hire**

TR 550: We view taxis and private hire vehicles as forms of public transport. As such they have a role to play in the transport system, especially in rural areas and at times when trains and buses are not available.

TR 551: Effective regulation of these services is required because of their diverse nature and small scale. This will include the regulation of fares and schemes to promote taxi sharing. We recognise that autonomous taxis are likely to form a major part of the urban transport provision in the 21st century and will work with partners to address and regulate such technological advances as they develop. We support consistent regulation of taxi and private hire licensing across Wales, including drivers' skills and vehicle maintenance, also giving incentives for conversion from dependence on fossil fuels.

TR 552: Local authorities will be required to ensure that within their areas there is a sufficient supply of vehicles for all potential users, so that all inclusive access and the carriage of bulky items can be catered for at all times. We will ensure all stations have taxi ranks suitable for hackney and private hire taxis in nearby, and/or support free taxi calling telephones.

### **Transport in Rural Areas**

TR 560: Transport can be a more significant facet of rural than urban life, as distances travelled are generally longer and therefore usually form a higher proportion of a household's budget. In addition, there can be a huge inequality of access to services between rural and urban areas.

TR 561: However, rural areas cannot be excluded from attempts to curb CO2 emissions and protecting the environment. The challenge of providing access to facilities, and of creating an integrated network of environmentally sustainable transport, will be much greater in the countryside than in urban areas and the solutions may include various forms of trip sharing and community transport provision, including post buses and taxis.

TR 562: We will encourage innovative solutions to maintain vital local services such as post offices relocated into village shops, community halls and pubs, internet access in village halls and churches doubling up as meeting rooms and music venues.

TR 563: To retain and develop local services in rural areas where the economies of scale inevitably work against this will require targeting of funding to support this. It will be recognised that independent living through being able to access services in larger centres via public transport, does carry with it its own financial benefits in terms of health and wellbeing.

## **Personal Motorised Transport**

### **Car Culture**

TR 600: Many people currently see cars as the primary means of transport. We seek to alter this perception, by providing information on the problems and real costs of car use, and by removing the deterrents to more sustainable methods of transport.

TR 601: Our other policies will support a move away from people feeling they need to own their own car. With a reduction in car ownership will come a reduction in all other problems associated with car use such as parking problems and noise and air pollution.

TR 602: We will support car sharing organisations. We will support the setting up of a system that works well in conjunction with the rail service.

TR 603: We oppose new road building or widening schemes except for essential access or safety reasons. We oppose any additions to or extensions of the existing motorway system.

TR 604: All new cars should be zero emission by 2030.

TR 605: All car parks offering more than 20 parking spaces shall provide EV charging points and secure bike parking with provision for electric bike charging. Solar carports and static batteries on these car parks shall be encouraged.

TR 606: We will ensure the driving test is appropriate to the developing driving environment , we will increase the penalties for damage, injury and death caused by traffic accidents, and we will reduce levels of alcohol currently permitted.

TR 607: We will set safe and sensible speed limits in both urban and rural areas.

### **Motorcycles**

TR 610: We recognise that motorcycles and other such transport can often provide a better option than cars in a number of ways and are supportive of suitable developments in this area such as electric bikes and motorbikes.

TR 611: However, petrol-powered motorcycles emit pollution and noise and can endanger road users. We discourage use of high powered motorcycles. We will set and enforcing strict noise limits and, in some cases, require speed limiters.

TR 612: We encourage instead use of low powered electric motorcycles to offer an alternative for those who currently use motorcycles or cars and cannot use more sustainable transport.

TR 613: We will not allow motorcyclists to use any priority measures for pedestrians and cyclists.

## **Freight**

TR 700: We will reduce the need for freight movement by altering the current culture of overconsumption and by promoting the provision of products from local sources.

TR 701: We will use financial incentives to bring large-scale freight back onto water and rail.

TR 702: For road freight we will introduce measures to improved scheduling and combine loads, and to collect return loads after delivery, and we will require delivery vehicles to collect delivery packaging and return it to the depot for reuse if possible.

TR 703: We shall move towards all road freight being zero emission, starting with “last mile” delivery services.

## **Shipping**

TR 800: We will strengthen shipping regulations within Welsh waters and would work towards better regulations and improved enforcement for international shipping through the International Maritime Organisation and in conjunction with powers to be invested in port state inspectors.

TR 801: We support the complete elimination of intentional pollution of the marine environment by oil and other harmful substances and will support and enforce strict international laws to stop this. (see MAR700)

TR 802: We aim to prevent accidents through strict enforcement policies such as a requirement for all large tankers to be fitted with double hulls and to be piloted and tug escorted while entering and leaving ports.

TR 803: All vessels entering Welsh waters must be uniquely identifiable and meet European minimum employment standards for their crews.

TR 804: Larger ports shall be equipped with shore to ship electric power to avoid ships running diesel engines whilst in port, simply to generate on-board electricity.

TR 805: Feasibility studies shall be carried out for the provision of green ammonia as a zero carbon fuel for ships at larger ports.

## **Air Transport**

TR 900: Heavier-than-air craft are one of the most energy intensive and polluting forms of transport, burning more fossil fuel per passenger or ton-mile than other modes of transport. This profligacy is heavily subsidised by the international agreement to impose zero taxes on aviation fuel. We will seek transnational agreement for taxation or duties to be applied to aviation fuels.

TR 901: We seek wherever possible to substitute air travel by less damaging modes of transport, such as ferries, trains and buses.

TR 902: This does not apply to emergency air services such as mountain rescue or specialist medical services.

TR 903: We believe that air related policy levers such as Air Passenger Duty should be devolved and considered how best to be utilised by a Welsh Government. We would encourage the use of APD in such a way as to encourage other forms of transport where viable, but not simply used to displace Welsh air emissions to English airports.

## 13. Housing

### Background

HO 100: Affordable, secure and decent accommodation is a basic human right. Those without accommodation and those forced through lack of choice into inadequate or unaffordable housing may suffer negative impacts and can be excluded from playing their full part in society.

HO 101: The inadequate and inequitable provision of housing in Wales today is the result of inequalities in access to resources, particularly land, the inability of the free market to meet diverse housing needs, and a lack of investment in social housing. Housing policy has encouraged the treatment of housing as a form of speculative investment, rather than a basic requirement for individual and social well-being.

HO 102: Some areas of Wales suffer from severe housing shortages, while quantities of housing lay vacant in others. Under-occupation of housing sits side by side with overcrowding. Severe problems such as rough sleeping are highly concentrated in a minority of local authorities, for reasons broader than local housing policy. For these reasons, housing policy cannot meet local housing needs in isolation, and must be fully integrated with other social, planning, economic and environmental policies.

HO 103: Much of our housing stock is very inefficient in terms of energy and water usage, making our homes a major source of greenhouse gas emissions which cause the climate emergency. This also causes high levels of fuel poverty and causes and contributes to physical and mental health problems. Improving the energy efficiency of all homes is a priority.

### Vision

HO 200: Wales Green Party recognises a universal human right to shelter which is affordable, secure and to a standard adequate for the health and well-being of the household.

HO 201: This right will be met by a balanced mix of tenures and providers, varying according to people's circumstances and preferences.

HO 202: Housing policy will be fully integrated with other policies to build more sustainable, self-reliant communities. The provision of housing should be coordinated with developments to provide work, leisure, education, transport and health care.

HO 203: Local communities will be given a stronger voice in local housing policy.

HO 204: Housing policy will aim to break the stranglehold that a small number of large developers have over housing provision.

HO 205: Housing policy will aim to minimise the impact of housing on other species and the natural environment.

### **Wales' Housing Stock**

HO 206: Most citizens in Wales live in large urban conurbations. A large area of Wales is rural and agricultural.

HO 207: According to the industry publication Inside Housing, (Jan 2019) Wales needs to build 8,300 homes a year to make progress in housing for all.

HO 208: There are also a large number of homes across Wales that have been empty for more than six months. This is an unacceptable situation against a background of growing unmet housing need.

HO 209: In many parts of rural Wales, a significant number of dwellings are owned as a second home, often with low rates of occupancy. Wales Green Party believes all second homes should be subject to full council tax rates and that the loophole allowing properties to be registered as a business should be scrapped.

### **Policies**

HO 300: We would put an obligation on local authorities (LAs) to carry out a full inventory of the housing stock in their area and we would implement policies to bring all housing stock into full use after suitable refurbishment.

HO 301: This would be done through a range of measures including the payment of full council tax, grants and Compulsory Purchase Orders.

HO 302: We will argue for a change in policy at Westminster to allow LAs to use receipts of sales of housing stock to build new stock.

HO 303: We will demand that the 5% VAT that is currently charged on renovation materials is scrapped.

HO 304: We will encourage better use of inner city and town centre buildings by simplifying change of use in the planning laws to allow for more residential use of empty stock while ensuring that appropriate space and environmental standards are maintained.

HO 305: We will examine the potential for extending the 'Houses into Homes' scheme to tackle the problem of existing empty housing stock.

HO 306: Development of new sites should avoid green field sites. There is one caveat here and that is where a brown field site has become a haven for wildlife and/or has become a special place for city dwellers. Assessments need to be made to check if the brown field site needs to be reclassified under such circumstances, e.g. as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

HO 307: The Green Party supports the Building Research Establishment in developing a comprehensive research and training programme relating to the safe and appropriate renovation of traditionally constructed buildings, listed or otherwise.

### **Financial Incentives**

HO 400: The cost of housing has risen hugely in the last few decades. House prices in Wales have followed the inflationary pattern of the South East of England. This is neither sustainable nor desirable.

HO 401: Few people benefit from high house prices. Those that do, are in powerful positions and there is little that recent governments, both in Wales and in Westminster, have done to stop the boom.

HO 402: High house prices lead to high rents, both in the private and public sector. High rents mean high Housing Benefit (HB) bills.

HO 403: Wales Green Party does not support punitive welfare measures such as the 'Bedroom Tax' and will push for any such policies to be scrapped.

HO 404: We will tackle the root causes of the high HB bill by aiming to create house price stability and by ensuring enough units, especially smaller units, are being created for those who have need of them.

HO 405: Land prices have risen sharply over recent decades. Land is often held speculatively by companies but also by individuals. Our policy on Land Value Tax would take away this speculative element.

HO 406: The actual building of a property can be done at very reasonable rates, especially when people use their own labour and skills. We will encourage self-built both in cities and in rural Wales. We will enable the setting up of local co-operatives to develop larger sites through self-building.

HO 407: We will make it possible for home owners to become tenants where they are struggling to pay their mortgage in a 'mortgage to rent' scheme.

### **Standards**

HO 500: Too much new housing is of a poor quality, for example with inadequate space and light, or poor energy performance. This is not only a problem for the occupants, it also increases opposition to new provision. Wales Green Party would therefore review existing building regulations and codes and introduce new regulations to require:

- Minimum space standards to improve residents' quality of life, ensure that homes are accessible, and are able to accommodate changing personal circumstances and growing families. These standards should enable anyone to live in any home in Wales.
- Comfort standards addressing ergonomics, sound, privacy and light, so that homes are places of retreat.
- Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions and design to avoid overheating during summer months without reliance on energy intensive cooling systems, taking account of projections for our changing climate.
- Water sensitive design, with a per person consumption target of 100 litres per person per day, the use of rainwater and grey water recycling where appropriate. As a minimum, developments must achieve a neutral impact on surface water runoff, or where conditions don't allow this discharge from the site must be limited, to reduce flooding. Drainage design must take account of the climate emergency, for example in preparing for a 1 in 100 year storm event. Care must be given to ensure that plants such as trees are given adequately sized pits to increase their resilience to the climate emergency.
- Use of low-impact materials, especially reused and recycled materials, to minimise the lifecycle embodied greenhouse gases, energy, water and other resources used in the construction of buildings and over the lifecycle of the materials.
- Consideration of the importance of the built environment for other species such as lichens, birds, bats and insects, avoiding impacts where possible and enhancing the local ecology as part of the local planning policy.
- Provision of facilities to make sustainable lifestyle choices the easiest choice for occupants, for example in the provision of recycling bins and cycle parking.

HO 501: Consultation by government and local authorities on standards and strategies should be proactive, to discover what the community needs.

## **Housing tenures**

### **Local Authority housing**

HO 600: Wales Green Party believes in the value of public ownership under the control of elected representatives as part of mixed provision for social housing. Council housing and the secure tenure it affords is an essential form of social housing provision. Government must ensure adequate and good quality council housing stock is retained and provided by every local authority. It should also ensure that sufficient funding is available to councils for the provision of effective repairs and maintenance services.

HO 601: Local authorities should be able to borrow at prudential limits without interference from central government.

HO 602: Local authorities should be encouraged to build or buy homes where there is a need for social housing as a principal means of meeting their obligations to homeless people and people in housing need.

HO 603: Wales Green Party will push for a change in policy at Westminster in order to allow Local authorities to use receipts of sales of housing stock to build new stock.

## **Housing Associations**

HO 604: Housing associations (or registered social providers) can be effective providers of housing to rent, and can serve particular needs. They have also been responsible for considerable innovation in the housing sector, for example in championing refurbishment rather than redevelopment and supporting further tenant involvement.

HO 605: Some housing associations are too large and commercial in nature. They must be democratised, with a fundamental shift of power in favour of tenants and increased accountability to the local community, aided by a reduction in size and the mandatory representation of tenants on their boards. Wales Green Party would give tenants and local councillors greater representation on their boards.

HO 606: In view of their public role, and the substantial amount of public funding they receive, housing associations will be made public bodies susceptible to such checks on the exercise of their functions as judicial review, the Human Rights and the Freedom of Information Act, and shall be required to publish open data on their finances and operations that will assist their tenants, councillors and other stakeholders in effectively scrutinising their operations.

HO 607: In the short term, government financial support to housing associations should be increased, and provided over terms long enough to allow appropriate planning to meet housing need. This support will favour smaller associations and will be negotiated and agreed with local authorities and community groups.

HO 608: Rent levels and tenancy agreements should offer tenants genuine affordability and security. Wales Green Party would set a national rent policy that would require Housing Associations to set rents at levels that ensure genuine affordability for those on low incomes. Housing associations should work with local authorities to meet the needs of all those in the local community excluded by private market housing. The default tenancy agreements should be a secure, lifetime tenancies.

## **Co-operative housing**

HO 609: Co-operative forms of home and land ownership and management would be supported and prioritised in housing strategies where they improve access to secure, long-term affordable homes. They can engender increased satisfaction, pride in the community, enhanced training and employment opportunities, and a greater degree of enfranchisement for tenants.

## **Private rented housing**

HO 610: The private rented sector has a role in meeting housing need, particularly in the short term while social and co-operative housing remains a minority tenure. But Wales Green Party believes the sector is failing to provide secure, affordable and high standard homes.

HO 611: Assured Shorthold Tenancies should be phased out, and replaced with a new Stable Rental Tenancy, which would recognise the principle that the property is the home of the tenant first, and an asset of the landlord second. This will include the following provisions:



- Security of tenure, during which time the tenant can end the tenancy with two months' notice. The reasons why the landlord can end a tenancy are set out below.
- The abolition of section 21 "no fault eviction" powers for landlords, so it is the choice of good tenants whether they wish to remain in the property. The landlord may only end the tenancy at this time in order to sell the property (with proof of purchase), to move in or where there has been a serious breach of the contract.
- Rents should be controlled. Wales Green Party would aim for controls to achieve a 'Living Rent', and in implementing any controls we would strike a balance between affordability and predictability for tenants, and the landlords' need to invest in their homes and make a reasonable profit.

### **Owner occupied housing**

HO 612: Wales Green Party recognises the benefits and risks of citizens owning their own homes.

HO 613: Support for 'low cost home ownership' schemes such as Shared Ownership would be phased out. These often represent poor value for money, tie occupants into uncompetitive mortgages and can be difficult to sell. They would be replaced by co-operative home ownership models and in the long term made unnecessary by policies to bring down prices such as Land Value Taxation.

HO 614: Residential leasehold would be phased out, and all new developments would be freehold, commonhold or co-operatively owned. Existing leaseholders would be given the right to buy their freehold at a fair price. Leaseholders under the same freehold will also be able to transfer to commonhold on a simple majority vote and without paying the unfair marriage value penalty. Leaseholders would gain stronger protection against forfeit of lease if they get into a small debt or other breach of lease.

HO 615: Residential management agents would come under statutory regulation, similar to lettings agents and estate agents, to protect tenants from rogue operators.

HO 616: Wales Green Party would help people at risk of repossession keep their homes via a Right to Rent scheme. This would enable them to sell their home to their local authority at a fair market rate, and rent it back under the terms available to council tenants, meaning they could stay in their home until they wanted to move or buy it back from the local authority.

## **14. Education**

### **Vision**

The Green Party supports the four purposes of the New Curriculum for Wales:

ED 100: Education should encourage ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives

ED 101: Education should provide everyone with the knowledge and full range of skills they require to be enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.

ED 102: Education should create ethical, informed citizens of Wales who feel a sense of belonging and responsibility within the wider world.

ED 103: Education should promote equality, inclusivity, social and emotional well-being which will create healthy, confident individuals ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

ED 104: Academic achievement is important and should be nurtured. We want our people to feel successful and to achieve both within our country and to be cooperative and capable students on an international level. We want to build links with universities and governments around the world with mutually rewarding exchanges of knowledge, cultures and understanding.

ED 105: It is essential that our education system recognises, values and nurtures the diversity of talents with our society and fosters a growth mindset. It is essential that we encourage our people to become active learners in a wide range of important areas of learning, and respond to the changing needs of our society. We will need to develop a wide range of apprenticeships which will train people to improve our natural environment, add to our food resilience projects, care for our vulnerable people, build ecologically sound homes and improve our transport system.

ED 106: Education is a right. School should be a safe place where all pupils feel valued and able to choose the educational pathway that most suits them.

ED 107: Our underlying vision is that all children and young people are entitled to accessible curriculum which offers a wide variety of opportunities and allows the child to choose the options that most suit their needs, interests and aptitudes.

### **Structure and Accountability of Primary and Secondary Schools**

ED 200: Welsh Government is in the process of creating a new curriculum. The Wales Green Party proposes that any changes should be carefully introduced with due diligence, and all stakeholders should be involved in the consultation process.

ED 201: The Covid19 Virus and the Welsh Government's declaration that Wales is facing a Climate Emergency have already called into question how our schools and our education system will move forward. We will foster a collaborative approach to working with Local Authorities, school teachers, the teacher unions and the parents and would wish to encourage more working with civil society organisations, such as charities and NGOs in order to link with the local and wider community.

ED 202: School trips into the countryside would no longer be an add on to the end of a class-based project, but the basis for the learning project, mainly experienced out of doors.

Outdoor education centres which promote woodland activities, marine exploration and recovery, food growth, outdoor exercise and adventure would be fully funded in order to provide real and memorable learning experiences. All schools would be encouraged to have an allotment where children learn how to tend, cook and eat their own food, either within the school grounds, or allocated to them by the nearest allotment society.

ED 203: We would continue to fund and develop the recently introduced method of protecting small schools by using the internet to share specialist teaching between schools, whilst minimizing the distance that students have to travel. We would monitor the progress of this practice, and

extend it to other rural areas, if it results in successful outcomes for the students. We would also consider using this method for specialist subjects in urban areas, for students who wish to study a subject that is not available in their catchment area school e.g. Triple Science.

ED 204: We recognise that schools in areas of deprivation tend to have lower academic results. We promote the ideal all students will attend their catchment area, in order to minimise car and bus travel and the associated pollution. We will address this issue by making sure that students who wish to study academic subjects which are not available at their school can use the internet to join virtual lessons at a school that does provide that subject, in a quiet and calm environment

ED 205: We recognize that many schools have issues with disruptive pupils. In part this is because the curriculum does not adapt to the needs, interests and aptitude of all pupils. We need to make sure that students who are disruptive are not disadvantaging the needs of the group of learners who want to study the given curriculum. We do not support the use of isolation rooms and time out rooms as they do not address the educational needs of the disruptive pupils. Alternative Provision does exist for these pupils, who are mainly, but not exclusively teenagers. It has become apparent that some Authorities are paying private providers to make provision for these students. This is an area of grave concern, as is the amount of students who at this time become absent from any provision and are at risk. The crucial point at which we need to find a different approach is that at which early signs that the students were becoming disaffected from schools are seen. We do need to recognize that students can have many stresses in home life, in creating secure friendship groups, in food and housing worries, and in self image, which may include feelings of failure to understand the given curriculum. Education has to be more than pure academic attainment. We will commission a multi disciplinary approach for early interventions, and develop worthwhile alternative provision with qualifications that have a real and recognizable value to society, giving all students a sense of purpose and self belief.

ED 206: We recognise that good quality learning environments enhance learning and well-being. We are concerned that new builds are often built on a smaller footprint than the schools' original footprint in order to fund the new build. This is a false economy, as children thrive in a well designed school which considers the needs of the learners as paramount. We will be open and transparent in the design of new builds, and they will be built on ecologically sound principles.

ED 207: We would encourage schools to be at the heart of communities, and encourage students to become more meaningfully involved in their community e.g. by maintaining planting troughs in the village, planting a meadow area in the local park, singing at a local venue for elderly people.

ED 208: Students will have more choice in the subjects they are able to study. We will retain GCSEs and A levels, although the content will be widened in order to teach key subjects such as ESDGC and the Ecology of Wales. English, Maths and Maths Numeracy GCSE will continue to be compulsory for most pupils. We recognise and support the use of Essential Skills Assessment instead of Numeracy and English GCSEs for some students as a better way to recognise achievement. In addition students will be given the option to choose more practical outdoor based learning such as forestry skills, food growth and animal care, supporting more holistic assessment. This will lead into apprenticeships at 16 or 18 years of age.

ED 209: We recognise and welcome the opportunity given by the new Welsh curriculum to revitalise the assessment system. We will work collaboratively with other stakeholders to replace the current examination based GCSE and A Level system with an holistic, robust, rigorous and

fairer assessment system that reflects each students' capabilities. This will be a fitting culmination of their years at school benefiting from a true 'curriculum for all'.

ED 210: Schools will offer safe places for students to go to socialise in the evenings and weekends, in order to make best use of sports equipment and for other activities, This will be organised by highly trained youth workers and will be well funded for appropriate activities to take place. It will also have trained counsellors on hand that students can approach for advice as needed. There will be liaison between school and youth worker staff if safeguarding concerns are raised, but in general it will be a safe place where students can speak in confidence to a trusted advisor. Youth provision will not compulsory, and would be separate from school provision. In certain circumstances it will liaise and work with the police and probation service in early intervention programmes.

### **Different Types of Education**

ED 300: A range of different types of schools exists. All young people have a right to receive a high standard of education at their local school, regardless of their culture and beliefs and what their financial background or level of ability is.

ED 301: The state currently subsidises independent schools, for example through paying for places for children of parents working in jobs such as diplomats, the British Council, and the military sector. We would stop funding independent placements except in the very rare cases where a child needs to move out of County due to safeguarding concerns.

ED 302: We will continue to aim for all community schools to provide everyone with an education which will fit everyone's individual needs through a diverse curriculum which offers choice and is appropriate for everyone's needs and ability. We would seek to provide safe and accessible education for every child between the age of 3 and 16. However, we recognise that some people will still want to be educated outside of mainstream schools, including home education.

ED 303: Schools which remain in the private sector would be classed as a business and have all charitable status removed; they would pay all relevant taxes such as VAT and Corporation Tax. All state sponsored scholarships would be redirected to the Local Authorities. We are aware that pupils with complex needs occasionally attend special schools with charitable status. However, parents will not be required to take the state up on this.

We would aim to improve state provision to the point that all pupils can be provided for by state funded schools. Private schools would be required to contribute to a National Initial Teacher Training Programme

ED 304: We support parents' rights to educate their children in settings other than at school such as at home. Local Authorities may provide advice and support for parents who choose to educate their children at home or in partnership with schools. Flexi-schooling, where children are educated in school for part of the week and at home for the rest of the week, will be possible for all who stand to benefit.

ED 305: Education includes a celebration and recognition of religious and cultural diversity and spirituality. Education should encourage critical engagement with a diverse, sometimes competing, worldviews and beliefs - whether based on culture, religion or spirituality.

ED 306: We recognize that some students are at risk of being groomed on the internet or by local contacts such as sex abusers and political extremists.

ED 307: We will remove the requirement for a compulsory daily act of worship. We will replace it with a quiet time, where all students may choose to act according to their beliefs or take time for reflection.

ED 308: We recognise the importance of human values and the moral dimension in learning, and the role they play in different belief systems.

ED 309: We will ensure that children and young people can practice their faith in schools if they so wish, for example by providing prayer space for those who need or wish to practice their religion regularly

## **Teachers**

ED 400: Teachers are the key resource within the education system. They need quality initial training, continuing professional development and appropriate salaries and secure contracts of employment, issued directly by the school or authority. Every child should be taught by a teacher with Qualified Teacher Status, including children who attend state run nursery schools, reception aged children and children who spend considerable time in alternative provision.

ED 401: The Wales Green Party supports teachers, their professionalism, commitment and knowledge of their students and their social and physical environment. We would like to see more weight given to teachers' views, and the views of teachers' organisations, in future educational developments in Wales.

## **Curriculum for School-aged Children**

ED 500: In the new Welsh curriculum children's views are taken into account when planning the curriculum. Children and young people's own interests and enthusiasms are the natural starting point for productive learning, the roots from which a broad curriculum can grow.

ED 501: Every age group has within it children with a range of interests, needs, aptitudes and motivations. It is a challenge for each class teacher to meet the individual requirements of each child, and therefore a good teacher to child ratio, a range of suitable spaces within a class, outside space and good quality equipment are essential

ED 502: The Welsh Curriculum continues to evolve into a set of learning entitlements which include: how to engage with learning, social skills and physical well-being, the development of essential numeracy and literacy and digital literacy skills, citizenship, exploration of the creative arts, outdoor education, in short, a curriculum that caters for and encourages a variety of interests, intelligences, skills and talents, that enables children and young people to become self-directed learners, who will be equipped to take advantage of learning opportunities throughout their lives. In addition we would enhance outdoor learning opportunities and encourage regular outdoor meaningful activities with clear objectives.

ED 503: Teaching and learning Welsh is recognised and valued as an integral component of Wales' education system from the early years through to post-compulsory provision. We also propose a

widening of access to additional languages, from introducing a third language at lower key stages to having a thorough review of assessment options and structures at KS4, in line with the plan which states that “In developing their skills in Welsh and English, children and young people can acquire a foundation for learning additional languages, ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.”

ED 504: All children will be provided free of charge a balanced nutritious lunch, with dietary requirements catered for. Vending machines will only supply healthy snacks and not crisps, carbonated drinks and sweets. Schools will be encouraged to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food. Not only will this provide invaluable and essential education in the importance of a good diet, but evidence shows it will greatly improve behaviour, quality of life and learning.

ED 505: To consult with teachers of history to include in the curriculum: modern history to current day, for example Windrush, Stonewall, Falklands, 9/11; and in the history of all eras, discussion of how the economic choices made by different societies in their times have enhanced or degraded the natural resource available to modern societies and consequently restrict the options available for sustainable growth for future economies.

ED 506: Funding contributions made by corporate sponsors may be accompanied only by media identifying the corporate sponsors but not promotional material.

ED 507: We will ensure that all children have opportunities, facilities and resources to take part in physical education as part of school curriculum and assessment, including swimming skills and athletics, leading to participation in organised sports when desired. We will seek to protect and enhance school facilities for physical exercise, especially outdoors.

ED 508: We will support schools’ participation in Forest School as part of a child centred social and emotional development , and for development of learning and interest in wildlife and biodiversity in Welsh landscapes.

ED 509: We support the development of broad eco-literacy programmes in schools in Wales to help all learners understand the basics of how life is supported in ecosystems and our human dependence upon healthy natural systems. We would encourage engagement with local Wildlife Trusts and other organisations and learning about how to interact in a positive and sensitive way with wildlife and green spaces near to schools and learning and participation in Welsh measures to protect, restore and regenerate natural systems.

ED 510: We support the extension of citizenship elements to include engagement with, and understanding of, key aspects of local economy and planning of communities local to schools. We support the enabling of learners to be sustainable job creators, in ways that respond to local needs, as well as becoming effective job seekers. Children’s projects should include applied skills and ideas to improve and interact with their local infrastructure and economy, including especially examples of ‘good citizen’ business with social and ecological objectives.

## **Assessment**

ED 520: We will retain GCSEs and A levels and encourage a can do attitude to assessing students who are more likely to choose a creative, vocational or social skills based career.

ED 521: A healthy education system would include a broad range of cumulative, formative and summative assessment. Assessments will become less obtrusive and be clearly directed towards enhancing the learning of the individual child by accurately evaluating progression in order to plan the next steps for learning.

ED 522: Academic qualifications will be recognized as of equal value and parallel to all UK and EU qualifications, allowing cross border study to take place at all UK and European universities.

### **Foundation Phase**

ED 530: The Foundation Phase of learning should be a great leveller. The importance of receptive and expressive language development is a key and under researched essential component of a successful education. Many children enter school having limited opportunities to develop the skills of how to communicate and be sociable with peers or adults. Until these skills are developed, learning anything will be a challenge. We would enhance speech therapy services and make this provision part of every school's provision. This will be a flexible service where personnel will move between schools in order to ensure that the children with the highest needs will be provided for.

ED 531: In accordance with the values outlined in our Vision there will be an emphasis on social cohesion, play, relatedness and character building as well as knowledge and skills.

ED 532 We believe that the Foundation Phase should be from age 3 to age 6. We believe that reading and writing should be taught within small, quiet groups from the age of 6, after the child has become adept at speaking, listening and has the confidence and social skills to build on her previous successes at school.

ED 533: We would build upon and continue successful schemes such as Flying Start.

ED 534: Foundation Phase establishments will provide continuity and consistency of staff for all children, in order to deliver a safe and secure learning environment, be close to the children's home and will be a place where multidisciplinary staff such as health visitors, speech therapists and social workers make regular visits.

### **Additional Learning Needs**

ED 540: There are positive benefits to being educated alongside people with a variety of needs and abilities and this could lead to a more inclusive society. We support the principle of offering all children the opportunity to be educated in a mainstream school, whatever their level of need may be. However we fully support the Routes to Learning curriculum developments and respect that for some children they benefit from the multidisciplinary provision available in special schools.

ED 541: There are children with social and emotional difficulties who presently attend Special Schools. We recognize that these are exceptional circumstances, where the children may have experienced trauma and have complex mental health needs. In the same way that children with complex learning difficulties require Routes to Learning, this group of children will need a multidisciplinary provision, which may involve an Alternative Provision. This group of children should remain within state run provision and receive an adapted curriculum which has measureable achievable outcomes, giving children a positive understanding of their place in the world and their potential future

ED 542: We will continue to support collegiate working between Education, Health and Social Services departments to support the whole child where necessary

### **Further Education**

ED 600: Currently Further Education colleges are run independently from Local Authorities. They receive a much lower unit cost per pupil than schools and the teaching salaries are lower. We believe that they should be publicly owned by Local Authorities and funded at the same rate as secondary schools and be subject to the same requirements as schools.

ED 601: Further Education will be accessible to people of all ages and offer a wide range of practical, vocational and academic courses and qualifications.

ED 602: With devastating cuts to further education over the past 2 years, we will not only ensure no more cuts are made, but we will work to ensure that funding is sustainable for the future of Further Education. We believe in lifelong learning with free education.

ED 603: We believe that funding support should be available for all learners, this will also include child-care and use of free cross border public transport.

ED 604: Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG, formally ALG) and Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is secure for the foreseeable future. We will also work with student organisations with the aim to review how the current system is working, if it is sustainable for the learners. With mental health a major barrier for learners across the education sector in Wales, we will ensure that every institution has fully trained professional staff on site at all times to help support learners who may have concerns around mental health.

ED 605: We want to ensure that learners in post 16 educations are being taught by the best possible lecturers. We will ensure that all staff are fully qualified to the highest standard in Wales, this will help towards making us leaders in education.

### **Higher Education**

ED 700: Higher education expands the boundaries of knowledge, it is essential to developing a civilised society and sustainable economy based on sustainable living. When it works well, it is a public good worthy of public investment – it is a good for individuals, a good for communities, good for everyone. Yet, from a Green perspective, too much HE fails to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the challenges of sustainability in a very unequal world.

ED 701: We want Wales to have a world class higher education system that can help move our society to be fairer and more resilient, and that enables people in Wales to maximise their potential. To achieve this the higher education sector will need to evolve and change in order to provide the knowledge, skills and vision we need.

ED 702: Higher education ‘reforms’ have created a system that now inserts students into a business structure as both customer and product. Greens support a much stronger public benefit model for Welsh HE providers. This would put more emphasis on achieving Wellbeing outcomes for people in Wales and for the ecological systems on which we depend. These changes to



corporate purpose would assist in delivering commitments to Future Generations and the Wellbeing Economy.

## **Access**

ED 703: Higher education should be available to anyone who wishes and is able to study at that level, regardless of age, disability, having a family, religion, race or class. Education is not a product to be bought, it is a personal and social development process, and it is a right.

ED 704: Higher Education is not an automatic extension of school or Further Education. The best results are achieved by people who have an active desire to study at this level when they feel ready. Part time higher education for older and working people needs to have parity with full time higher education for 18–21 year olds. We will rebalance the public policy emphasis which currently prioritises full time higher education for the young to the exclusion of part time higher education for the older and working population.

ED 705: We will also rebalance access and success in higher education which disproportionately favours those from advantaged backgrounds, to the exclusion of those from less advantaged backgrounds by extending widening access initiatives. We will ensure that there are access courses for students who have the potential to study at a higher level but who are not yet ready for it.

ED 706: Universities must be open to all, and offer free crèche to students, changing and breastfeeding facilities, and religious facilities such as prayer spaces.

ED 707: The Welsh Language is a living language and citizens of Wales should be able to live their lives using this language. As such opportunities of studying higher education through Welsh need to be expanded, this should be done through the continued investment and extension of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

## **Fees and support**

ED 708: We believe higher education is a right and should be free to all those that wish and are able to study at HE level. We do not believe students from Wales should pay tuition fees.

ED 709: We understand that tuition fees are not the only barrier to study. We will ensure that there is an adequate maintenance support grant system for students whilst they study, that they are able to afford to eat, travel and live. We understand this is vitally important for student retention and believe that those who need this support the most, should receive the most support. This applies to both full time and part time students.

ED 710: We will ensure that students can access better mental health services, and ensure that all people can access mental health services through the medium of Welsh.

ED 711: Physical and virtual access and support for students with disabilities is vitally important. We will protect Disabled Student Allowance and ensure those with disabilities are enabled to continue their studies, fully supported by their institution and relevant education agencies, such as Student Finance Wales.

ED 712: Carers are often time-poor and have significant pressures on them daily. This makes

accessing education difficult and means that flexible options, such as part-time higher education courses and community courses are vital. We want a whole system approach to funding education that ensures carers are able to access education and training if they wish. Carers need better information, advice and guidance on the availability of flexible learning options.

ED 713: Sexual harassment, violence and stalking against all students, but especially against women is a known issue on university campuses. We will ensure that universities are taking their duty of care seriously in this area and that measures are regularly reviewed with student participation.

ED 714: Racism cannot be tolerated in any HE institution. We will ensure that policies are in place and are enacted and regularly reviewed with student participation.

ED 715: Higher education institutions should be hate-crime free spaces, and universities need to take their responsibilities in this area very seriously and the needs of the diverse student body are paramount.

### **Learning, teaching and quality**

ED 716: Universities are vital to our transition to a sustainable, resilient and fair Wellbeing Economy and to the lives of the people of Wales. We will support links between universities and industry in order to encourage innovations for sustainability, innovations in business models, and transitioning to a Circular Economy. We will develop student placements that can assist in developing a resilient and future-focused economy for Wales, this includes in high-tech and manufacturing industries, as well as in creative and arts industries.

ED 717: Universities as market-based institutions have a business model that has often relied upon recruiting international students on inflated fees. We support the re-think that institutions in Wales are engaged in as a result of the continuing COVID pandemic. We will support the re-set of priorities to serving the Wellbeing of people in Wales and a healthy and biodiverse Welsh environment. We will support a Wellbeing international perspective that will set up schemes to help fund places for less wealthy students from developing countries and to develop Higher Education in developing countries through partnership projects, prioritising subject areas where there is a shortage of skills to enable Wellbeing economies.

ED 718: We will require higher education institutions to adhere to the same stringent environmental regulations as large businesses and other institutions, but encourage them to lead the way and become living labs for institutional development that can contribute to the Wellbeing Economy and the Wellbeing of Future Generations.

### **Postgraduate Education and Research**

ED 801: Wales has set out on an innovative path towards a sustainable future and now needs to improve research in Wales in order to support citizens and all levels of governance with appropriate expertise and creative developments. Homegrown research capacity needs to be complemented with international cooperation and exchange in the developing good practice and lessons towards sustainable economy and Wellbeing for the citizens of today and of the future.

ED 802: The Welsh Government sets the remit of HEFCE Wales in very general terms. In light of the Welsh legislation on the Rights of Future Generations, and the recent commitments to a Wellbeing Economy we call on the Welsh Government to institute a review to ensure that research assists towards these goals.

ED 803: Responsible Innovation and technology development is an area where transparency and public scrutiny are necessary for democratic social and environmental outcomes. There are a number of ethically problematic areas of research which we propose should be overseen by ethics committees that include public representation. These areas include genetic modification, research on animals, and artificial intelligence linked to potential corporate and/or governmental uses of 'big data' to manipulate and control people undermining democratic norms.

ED 804: To reverse the "brain drain" and encourage Welsh researchers working abroad to return to Wales (and also to encourage young researchers to come to Wales), we would introduce a scholarship scheme funding postdoctoral researchers in Welsh universities focused on ensuring Wales becomes a leading innovator in developing the Wellbeing Economy, supporting biodiversity and solving the climate emergency.

ED 805: We will work to ensure that all published material created in the public sector (eg maps, government publications, university research) would be available to all free of financial restrictions and distributed in open standard formats.

ED 806: We support the promotion of Open Education resources and practice across all education institutions in Wales, it is a way of democratising knowledge and maximising public support for investment in universities.

ED 807: We will not solve global problems in an international atmosphere of competition and warfare. We support the creation of a Peace Academy in Wales that would cooperate with other such institutions, particularly in other small nations.

ED 808: The global economy and environment is changing rapidly, testing nations' ability to respond and maintain our societies. We support the creation of a Resilient Wales Institute that is focused on developing a stronger foundational economy, social cohesion and equality, and physical infrastructure in Wales that can respond robustly to coming shocks and threats. This institute should also be focused on international cooperation and sharing lessons.

### **Lifelong Learning (including learning in the workplace and retraining)**

ED 900: Learning through life is vital to creating a healthy society and economy. There should be funding-supported opportunities to study at any level at any stage of life. Adult education should embrace and encourage learning for learning's sake, as well as those who wish to use it for career development purposes.

ED 901: We will provide adult education in local communities with greater funding. Adult education will be provided where people need it most, be it in town centres rather than in out-of-town universities, or via online learning, using models pioneered by The Open University.

ED902: Funding for courses will be decided at a local level, without it having to be target driven and focused only on qualifications.

ED 903: We will ensure provision of free education for adults to learn essential literacy, numeracy and life skills including parenting programmes, and to acquire skills and qualifications which will help them directly gain employment.

ED 904: We support the development of the Welsh Energy Sector Training project, including linked community development and awareness programmes.

ED 905: We support and encourage the provision of continuing professional development courses, delivered by higher education providers for the developing sustainability professions, including holistic public health and Wellbeing.

## 15. Young People

### **Votes at 16**

YP 100: Wales Green Party recognises and respects the abilities of young people from the age of 16 to participate in our democratic society and would seek to include them by giving them the right to vote. We believe this will incentivise 16 and 17 year olds to engage with the ballot system, giving them a societal responsibility and empower them to exercise their democratic right. This will allow young people the opportunity to influence decisions that will define their future and inspires active citizenship.

### **Young People's Voices**

YP 200: Wales Green Party welcomes the establishment of the Welsh Youth Parliament and will ensure it has a meaningful role in influencing decisions of the Assembly and other public bodies.

YP 201: Wales Green Party will require all local councils to ensure that young people are effectively consulted on decisions being made by the council.

### **Protect Youth Services**

YP 300: Wales Green Party wants to ensure that our young people receive a statutory funded universal Youth Service from all local authorities in Wales. Currently there is no statutory obligation placed on local authorities to provide a Youth Service. Recently, this has meant that councils when faced with Government austerity cuts have chosen to cut vital services to our young people. The young people in disadvantaged communities, in particular, are being harder hit by these measures. For many vulnerable young people their locally provided service is a lifeline and is a much needed supported pathway to a more productive, happy and fulfilled adulthood.

YP 301: With this a national coherent model for youth work in Wales must be established and based on the UNCRC.

## **Information Services for Young People**

YP 400: Wales Green Party wish to ensure that each local authority delivers a universal drop-in Information Service for young people appropriate to the locality. This would offer an easy to access essential voluntary engagement for all young people aged 11 – 25 years of age to seek impartial and confidential advice, information, guidance and support.

## **Transport**

YP 500: Free bus passes to all young people up to the age of 21; this would enable them to seek an independent transition into adulthood.

## **16. The Welsh Language, Culture, Media and Sport**

### **Vision**

WLC 100: The Welsh language is in parts inseparable from Welsh Culture. Wales Green Party recognises the importance of both and supports them. We recognise the importance of the Welsh language in everyday life but also in the culturally important events such as Eisteddfodau and the Urdd.

WLC 101: Culture, media and sport are three important elements through which social identity and a sense of community can be fostered in larger social groupings than those which can be sustained by personal relationships.

WLC 102: In all areas of culture, media and sport, there are two ways in which people can engage with the activity: through participation or through reception.

WLC 103: The rise of new media at the beginning of the 21st century can be seen as a public expression of a need for better access and improved participation.

WLC 104: Similarly the continuing existence of grass roots activity in sport and culture, despite the large scale withdrawal of public sector support, shows the continuing need and value of these activities to citizens.

WLC 105: Green policies would seek to democratise access to culture, media and sporting activities, ensuring that individuals are not excluded. Greens believe that culture, media and sport all have a role to play in challenging discrimination.

WLC 106: We believe, as across all our policy, in localising where possible. Regulatory structures need to be applied and controlled at the most local practicable level.

WLC 107: Support would be given to ensure that there are adequate resources available to provide (where the private sector is unable) accessible local media, local sporting activity or local cultural support then it is the role of government to ensure that provision is available to meet the needs of the community.

## Language

WL 200: Our vision is for the Welsh language to thrive, to be the language of homes, workplaces and public spaces across the country.

WL 201: At the very minimum we would expect publically funded organisations, and health and social service providers to engage with the public in either English or Welsh, according to the individual's preference. We would encourage all organisations to take this approach.

WL 202: We want higher standards and variety from Welsh language public broadcasting and to protect public investment in media channels such as S4C.

WL 203: We want greater provision of further and higher-level Welsh language education and proper provision of Welsh-medium courses within colleges and universities. We would support the continuation and extension of the [Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol](#).

WL 204: Learning Welsh should be free to do, and full and part-time intensive Welsh courses made available with the right to attend without loss of benefits.

WL 205: We would work with public sector organisations, and the Welsh Language Commissioner to ensure that delivery of services through the medium of Welsh, and regulations that underpin their rights are built around the needs and aspirations of Welsh speakers, and designed in close collaboration with them.

WL 206: Language learning in schools would start with introduction of a second language (English or Welsh) at age 3 in the Foundation Stage.

WL 207: Recognising the impact dementia can have on a Welsh speaker's capacity to use English as a second language, we would work with the health and social care sector and local authorities to increase the level of Welsh language provision in residential care, nursing care, and domiciliary care settings. This would ensure older Welsh speakers receive the same level of support as English speakers, can communicate their needs, and help them remain socially included.

WL 208: The Wales Green Party advocates:

- Promotion of Welsh on the computer desktop by engaging with the Open Source software revolution; In the state sector, where employees see a training need for Welsh, that it is funded by the employer;
- Giving the Welsh Language Commissioner a duty to comment on the likely effect of large housing or road developments on the language in affected, and a statutory right to have its comments heard at planning hearings;
- Application of the Welsh Language Act to the private sector. Comparison of resources for Welsh with those other EU threatened minority-language areas.
- Reviewing training provision in colleges for public body employees such as nurses and teachers, where provision of Welsh-language and other minority languages on a community level is critical. We recognise that language is a source of tension between non-Welsh speaking and Welsh speaking people living in the same areas. This concerns us. We support bilingual cultural initiatives and events. We encourage learning Welsh and integration of learners and first-language speakers.

## **Culture**

CUL 100: We value artistic expression. We do not measure artistic value in economic terms. We believe that the state has an important role to play in supporting artistic activity in society. We believe in the importance of cultural diversity and would promote our shared cultural heritage.

CUL 101: The body of historical creative work forms the basis of our culture and the preservation of this culture is a responsibility of the state. Culture is largely a grassroots activity. We value arts for their spontaneity, creativity and ability to make life worth living. We want to see the promotion of grassroots culture through community radio and television, and community art schemes.

CUL 102: Artistic activity has an important role to play in the sustenance of a society's culture. We believe that home grown entertainment industries need to be recognised for the value they add to society. To maintain cultural diversity in the 21st century these industries need to be protected and promoted in the face of a dominating global artistic culture.

## **Policies**

CUL 200: Arts and creativity play a fundamental role in education. (see Education)

CUL 201: Financial support does not entail a right to intervene in other people's self-expression.

CUL 202: We would encourage the growth of local arts associations who would be the representatives, rather than local government, on regional arts boards.

CUL 203: We would modify the licensing regulations to ensure that small scale live performance in pubs, clubs and similar venues is not stifled. We would also introduce the agent of change principle to protect venues from gentrification.

CUL 204: We would shift responsibility for arts funding, where appropriate, from national to local levels.

CUL 205: Sponsorship of the Arts: There may be a role for ethical commercial sponsorship of any cultural activity. This should not be used to reduce the total state support for the Arts, but rather to allow state funding to be redeployed elsewhere.

CUL 206: We would support Welsh cultural events like eisteddfodau especially on a more local level.

CUL 207: We would ensure that The National Assembly give proper support to local museums and libraries. Where national museums are located in the south, attention must be made to ensure that school children from elsewhere in Wales get access to these resources.

CUL 208: We would develop more relevant structures of support for the arts, building on the work of the [Arts Council of Wales](#) and ensuring that vibrant regional and local arts cultures can thrive.

CUL 209: We would explore the implementation of a tax on superstar performances with raised income being used to fund arts education services on a local and national level. This would be supplementary funding to existing sources of national and local authority support.

## **Media**

MED 100: The media section covers four major areas:

- Broadcast media: primarily television and radio
- Print media: primarily newspapers, magazines and journals.
- New media: primarily internet delivery by landline, wireless and mobile access
- Advertising in the media.

MED 200: Wales Green Party believes that a public service element in mass communications is a vital part of democracy. An informed democracy is a healthy democracy. We believe that market mechanisms alone are an insufficient basis for regulation of the mass media.

MED 201: Part of the role of public service broadcasting is to provide a shared space for all citizens.

MED 202: A free press and media are fundamental to our society and would not be constrained by spurious definitions of the public interest. Privacy laws, whilst protecting citizens' rights, would not be used to obstruct proper investigative journalism.

MED 203: We believe in maintaining public funding, as long as the BBC is pursuing clearly stated commitments to non-ratings led programming and continuing to fulfil a public service remit.

MED 204: We wish to see the reintroduction and protection of locally owned and run television and radio channels.

MED 205: Ownership and control of national and local print newspapers and journals is a proper matter for regulation by OFCOM.

MED 206: At present we do not see the need for a public service print publisher in an analogous position to the BBC, but this shall be kept under review as the newspaper market evolves.

MED 207: We would aim to ensure that future generations are not forced to grow up faster than is natural due to influences from social media sites and the resultant pressures placed on users to conform.

MED 208: The Green perspective is that advertising is in need of restraint. Whilst we recognise the freedom of individuals to make informed choices for themselves, regulation is needed where the impact is to the detriment of society or the environment. Regulators have a particular responsibility towards children and the vulnerable who must be protected from unscrupulous marketing and aggressive advertising.

## **Policies**



MED 300: A key factor in Wales Green Party media policy is recognition of the large influence that the mass media has on our democracy and our citizens. Public information supplied through mass media channels would not be subject to private or ministerial control.

MED 301: Data that is collected or generated at public expense would be made available to individual citizens for private use at no extra charge.

MED 302: We believe that there is a proper democratic case for limiting cross media ownership by trans-national companies. We would have tighter rules on cross-media ownership. Allowing individuals and companies to have too much influence undermines the operation of healthy informed democracy, not just in Wales, but across the UK, EU and the World.

MED 303: We would encourage wider, more localised, participation and discourage concentration of media ownership.

MED 304: Public service broadcasting means that information and education are not ghettoised to inconvenient times. A public service would provide higher quality non peak entertainment.

MED 305: The operation of public service media would be entirely divorced from interference by the government of the day. Government's role would be confined to defining and reviewing a public service remit for channels with a public service obligation and providing sufficient funds.

MED 306: Across all the broadcasting media and press we would seek to ensure that local channels were locally owned and accountable.

MED 307: New media ownership and access need to be monitored to ensure that digital divides or ghettoisation of sections of the community does not occur.

MED 308: We will establish a principle of appointing regulatory bodies by democratic means. All senior appointments in Wales would be made by regulatory bodies, and where appropriate, scrutinised by the relevant committee in the National Assembly.

MED 309: The Office of Communications (OFCOM) will remain as the primary regulatory authority across all media, but the remit will be amended to give social and cultural concerns equal weight to commercial factors.

MED 310: Membership of the OFCOM Board and the Board Committees will be reformed to include democratically elected representatives.

MED 311: The role of OFCOM will be further expanded to take on statutory responsibility and regulation for matters relating to print media.

MED 312: Trade unions in the mass media can help democratisation of access to media by giving employee stakeholders a voice in the output of media channels. We will support the role of unions in the media.

MED 313: In television and radio an important component of a public service obligation is the production and promotion of non ratings-led programming. Public service broadcasters will not be expected to maximise ratings where they can demonstrate a cultural value to their work.

MED 314: The primary public service broadcasters will remain the BBC and S4C, funded wholly by public money.

MED 315: As part of its public service obligation the BBC will be required to continue to develop its centres of excellence in Wales and have a significant local presence in Wales.

MED 316: The BBC would be organised primarily as a public service and thus not have to behave as if it operated in a commercial market. Following from this the funding of the BBC cannot be viewed solely through an economic prism, but must include the idea of public utility

MED 317: Whilst the BBC remains a public service organisation it is vital to distance it from Government or State interference. The funding available and its distribution would be controlled through a democratically appointed Public Service Media Council. This body will agree with government the total level of funding required.

MED 318: Where an existing public service medium is supplanted by a new alternative we would ensure universal access before the old medium is discontinued.

MED 319: We would establish Community Media Centres, where residents of the area can be trained and produce programmes. These Community Media Centres would be run democratically.

MED 320: We are opposed to contesting funds for Public service programmes. This will undermine BBC's and S4C's public service platform. Only where existing public service broadcasters are unable or unwilling to meet an identified public service need would funding be opened to alternative channels.

MED 321: Measures will be introduced to encourage local ownership and editorial control of titles particular to specific communities, cities and regions.

MED 322: We will encourage local papers to report on local government issues as a public service.

MED 323: We would increase awareness around the issues of security and privacy on social media sites.

MED 324: We will introduce a complete ban on promotion of tobacco, alcohol and other products that are harmful to people's health.

MED 325: Products which are harmful to the environment will be required to carry a prominent warning in all advertising.

MED 326: The costs associated with advertising space create an imbalance between commercial and non-commercial organisations in their ability to influence the public. We will provide access to all advertising media for groups seeking to redress a perceived imbalance.

MED 327: Political Parties are not fundamentally commercial organisations, and need continuing access to media channels in order to help maintain a citizenry aware of the political issues and involved in the democratic process. The system of Party Political Broadcasts would be extended to

allow registered political parties some free access to media space outside election periods and in print as well as broadcast media.

MED 328: The aggregate and cumulative effect of advertising taken altogether is to increase overall demand and foster a materialist and consumption driven culture which is not sustainable. The overall volume of advertising that promotes unsustainable consumption will be controlled and reduced. This control will be exercised by OFCOM, who may also exercise it over forms of advertising not otherwise within their control.

## **Censorship and Privacy**

MED 400: For the purposes of this section *culture* means all forms of artistic expression, including entertainment, such as film, drama, dance, painting, photography, sculpture, crafts, architecture, design, music, and similar activities. It also includes the historical record of such activities.

MED 401: In a Green society people of all ages and backgrounds would have access to participate in and enjoy all types of arts and cultural activities.

MED 402: Wales Green Party is opposed to all forms of censorship in the media and cultural activities for adults, however we recognise that not all freedoms may be appropriate for children.

## **Policies**

MED 500: Arts and culture in Wales are currently structured and funded in a way that gives the bigger players dominance over smaller community organisations and individual artists. A healthy and vibrant society does not see competition between creativity and purely financial business concerns.

MED 501: Our aim is to rebalance the relationship between cultural superstars and ordinary people. The present imbalance amounts to a virtual deification of celebrity superstars. We recognise that the creative industries sector is growing significantly in Wales, and we anticipate an increased role for artists and craftspeople.

MED 502: We would support teachers, parents and guardians in their efforts to protect children in their care from inappropriate material, through education.

MED 503: We would move to ban all advertising of damaging products targeted at children of primary school age and under.

MED 504: We would also reduce if not eradicate censorship on social media sites wherever possible.

## **Sport**

SP 100: Any sport that involves the killing or infliction of pain or suffering upon any animal is excluded from this section.

SP 101: There has been a growth in sport as a spectator based entertainment and a diminishment of sport as a means to improve physical health and co-operative behaviours. We see a need for government to encourage and provide support for participation in all sports at local level.

SP 102: National excellence in sport can best arise as a result of a widespread engagement in sporting activity across age, class, race, gender and geography.

SP 103: There are significant wider social benefits through increased participation in sport; for example health and well-being benefits translate into reduced pressure on the NHS and improved green economic performance.

In line with the principles above, we believe that there is no place in sport at any level for racism or any other form of discrimination.

SP 104: We further recognise that sport is one of the main remaining areas of gender discrimination. Women face many barriers (social, cultural, official) to full participation in many sports. This is an equally unacceptable discrimination.

SP 105: We want to direct attention towards participatory sports and activities. Whilst professional sport is a business, as noted above, its role in representing a community in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect with other communities would never be overlooked. This is especially the case in international sport.

## **Policies**

SP 200: Programmes to combat discrimination would be introduced wherever necessary, with a particular focus on young people.

SP 201: The aim of sports education in school would be to encourage as many people as possible to continue participating in sport after they leave school. As the vast majority of this participation will be at an amateur level, it is important to ensure that sufficient facilities exist to allow the participation of all those who want it.

SP 202: Where clubs wish to remain as Public Limited Companies (PLC's), we would like to see supporters' trusts set up with the aim of achieving enough of a shareholding to prevent the club being taken over by outside financial interests.

SP 203: Because many sports require special facilities, equipment, or the participation of large teams, they can be things which children or parents will be unable to organise for themselves. Schools therefore have an important role in providing children with a wide range of sporting activities. (see Education)

SP 204: Local councils would ensure that facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools and sports fields are sufficient to meet demand would. This could include the use of school fields by clubs for matches, where such clubs are unable to maintain their own grounds.

SP 205: A strong school and amateur sports culture would normally, in turn, strengthen professional performance. Access to a sporting career would be available without discrimination to anyone with the desire and ability to pursue it.

SP 206: In addition to their commercial aspect, professional sporting teams often represent communities and this social function needs to be recognised and supported by structures which allow local stakeholders to participate in the running of the business.

SP 207: We prefer professional sporting clubs to be mutually owned by the members rather than by shareholders. For those clubs which are currently PLC's, whose shares are traded internationally, the risk is always that distant shareholders, with no regard for the community the club is supposed to represent, will take over the club and sever all meaningful links with the local community. We will introduce legal mechanisms to allow transformation of such PLC's into Mutual Organisations with agreement of stakeholders.

SP 208: Local authorities would be permitted to invest in shares in professional sports clubs which operate in their area. Any dividends paid to the authority must be reinvested into public sporting facilities or coaching programmes in the area.

SP 209: We believe in safesanding for sports stadia. We would seek to undo this ban where such areas are proven to be safe for spectators and where the police are satisfied that no crowd control issues would arise.

SP 210: If a team is representing the nation then the Government would take a role in deciding whether it is appropriate for the team to take part in competition against a country with whom diplomatic relations are not possible.

SP 211: In determining whether a particular country is appropriate for international sporting contacts consideration would be given to the freedom of access by supporters and media in the country. If host government actions meant that freedom for Welsh citizens and journalists could not be guaranteed, there would be a presumption against a visit by a representative national team.

SP 212: Strategic national planning would seek to ensure that major national sporting arenas are not all sited in one part of the country and that all can be easily accessed by good public transport links. Wherever practical, the venue for international sporting fixtures would be rotated around various suitable stadia.

SP 213: When bidding to host or co-host major international sporting competitions, such as World Cups or the Olympics, wherever possible existing facilities would be proposed. No new facilities would be proposed unless their existence will also prove to be useful to the wider local community after the games.

SP 214: Wales would use its influence with the world sporting community to encourage the placing of international games across wider geographic areas. The televising of major national and international sporting events has a significant influence in inspiring young people to take up sports. It is therefore important to ensure that such events remain available on free-to-air nationwide TV. We would attempt to increase the number of events on the list of those protected in such a way.

SP 215: Sponsorship of sporting teams or events would not be used as a loophole concerning advertising restrictions.

SP 216: Sponsorship arrangements would not be allowed to restrict access to events of importance. In particular where a national team is playing then public service media would always be allowed to offer free access to everyone in Wales.

## 17. Tourism

### Vision

TOU 100: Wales is hugely attractive to tourists. The Welsh economy benefits substantially from the influx of people who wish to visit our amazing cultural heritage and our beautiful landscapes.

TOU 101: Wales Green Party wish to encourage tourists as we wish to share the benefits that Wales has to offer with other people. However, we wish to attract visitors in a way that does not damage the environment, either locally or on a larger scale.

TOU 102: We wish tourists to be able to travel in a sustainable manner and we wish the attractions they visit to be managed in such a way that they have a long-term future and that the people who work in the tourist industry are properly remunerated for their labour.

TOU 103: We believe a certification scheme that rewards true eco-tourism should be developed in Wales, a scheme that contributes to the development of international standards with other countries. We believe that we could become a world leader in setting these standards.

### Policies

TOU 200: We will encourage involvement of tourists with the communities they are visiting. We see positive integration of tourists and hosts in a sustainable way as the best way to achieve maximum benefit to both.

TOU 201: We think that a shift towards sustainable tourism requires information of tourists and businesses about the economic, social and environmental impacts of tourism. This is necessary to ensure that tourist activities and facilities are on a scale which matches the local community, are sympathetic to and do not pollute the environment, and are determined to a large extent by the local community.

TOU 202: The benefits of recreation and tourism can include inward investment and development in local communities. We will encourage the development of multi-purpose facilities, usable throughout the year, to meet the needs of local people as well as visitors. Such facilities would offer more regular employment than seasonal facilities.

TOU 203: We recognise that developing attractive recreational and holiday facilities closer to centres of population is important in supporting our policy to reduce long-distance and air travel. However, we will ensure that facilities are designed and managed to minimise social and environmental impact.

TOU 204: We will encourage awareness of the impact of travel and awareness of sustainability issues. We will promote a Green tourism certification system, building on existing schemes but

with more comprehensive criteria. Such certification schemes would be constructed so as to both incentivise the providers of travel and tourism facilities to achieve a higher rating and also to encourage consumers to choose higher rated options.

TOU 205: Certification for tour operators would take into account factors such as:

- the tour operator's membership of and status in independent environmental certification schemes such as [Green Globe](#);
- the extent to which tour documents inform tourists about the local culture and about the environmental/social issues which they might encounter, and advise them on how they could help to reduce their adverse environmental impact and to support the local economy of the places they are visiting;
- the information provided in brochures and tour handouts about more sustainable modes of transportation such as trains, buses and passenger ferries, particularly for distances of up to 500 miles;
- the information provided in tour documents about where and how to buy locally produced food and support smaller independent accommodation and food establishments;

TOU 206: Certification would also take into account the extent to which the tour operator:

- is aware of and actively respects local, regional, national and international rules established by treaties protecting fauna and flora;
- has procedures for undertaking a full Environmental Impact Assessment before any new tourist development is created, to ensure that the chosen venue is environmentally, sociologically and anthropologically sufficiently robust to support the operation proposed without undue damage in these areas;
- has a policy of minimising use of the most environmentally unsustainable forms of long-distance transport (e.g. by travelling where feasible over land and sea rather than by air);
- adopts environmental management systems to reduce any negative impact on the environment;
- seeks the active involvement of host communities in the decision-making process with regard to new and existing tourist developments, both in Wales and abroad;
- supports smaller independent local accommodation providers; recruits personnel locally for all levels of responsibility, and gives these personnel full work benefits applicable to other workers in the same country;
- protects and enhances the rights of workers employed in the tourist industry, including in other countries by insisting that business partners in those countries adhere to acceptable standards in these areas.

## **Tourism and Planning**

TOU 300: Local, unitary and structure plans, where they do not already do so, should include tourism. The periodic reviews should include a full Environmental Impact Assessment of tourism in the area, which would include recommendations and targets to ensure the achievement and maintenance of environmental sustainability. This would be supplemented by wider strategic environmental assessments.

TOU 301: Regional planning should encourage the provision of sustainable leisure facilities, so that more people do not feel a need to travel abroad for their holidays.

## **Tourism and the Economy**

TOU 400: Much employment in the tourist industry is low paid, casual and seasonal work, and in bad conditions. We will encourage more stable employment, not least by promoting dual use of tourism facilities on a year-round basis. Employers should not be able to deprive casual or seasonal workers of statutory employment rights. We would strengthen enforcement to ensure that employers meet their statutory obligations.

TOU 401: We favour a general review of legislation related to the conduct of restaurant and fast food enterprises. The key objective would be to reduce the negative environmental impacts of such enterprises and improve employment in them. Local authorities should be empowered to encourage certain types of outlet, for example small cafes or restaurants owned and operated by local people, and to encourage all food outlets to source a significant proportion of their food supplies from local producers, to strengthen the local economy.

TOU 402: We seek to introduce policies that discourage the ownership of second homes/holiday flats, which are only occupied for a few weeks a year. This produces very limited benefit to the local economy. It is detrimental to the local communities, pushing house prices higher and pricing local people out of the market.

## **Tourism and Transport**

TOU 500: We will provide additional public transport for tourists visiting Wales. Some areas attract large numbers of tourists, and much of this tourism will be seasonal.

TOU 501: Local authorities should help co-ordinate the provision of public transport to existing tourist facilities. Local restaurants, hotels, facilities and tourist attractions should be encouraged to give special offers to those visitors who use public transport, in exchange for promotion of their facilities through the transport operators and local authority. Such a scheme would be self-financing.

TOU 502: Facilities for walking, cycling and riding help tourism to benefit both tourists and residents. We would empower local authorities to give grants to small and medium sized tourism enterprises to improve significantly their facilities for walkers, cyclists and riders.

TOU 503: We will encourage local authorities to make available environmentally sustainable transport (examples: bicycles, electric bicycles, electric carts, electric cars) for hire by tourists. This could be an attraction in itself as well as enhancing the existing tourist experience, and would in addition be a year-round facility for locals.

TOU 504: Canals and other waterways offer sustainable opportunities for tourism with limited consumption of resources. We encourage the use of renewable energy and sustainable fuels for waterborne transport. Canals, rivers and waterways used for tourism need to be managed to ensure minimum disruption to the local ecology by tourist activities there. Speed restrictions on motorised craft must be enforced.



## **Tourism, our Natural and Cultural Heritage, and the Environment**

TOU 600: Certain leisure pursuits which are resource intensive, such as motor boating, helicopter and small aircraft pleasure flights, have greater impact on the environment. We will empower local authorities to ban these activities from specific locations in which they are inappropriate. The costs of such activities to participants should reflect their impact upon the environment.

TOU 601: Certain types of leisure facilities such as golf courses and large caravan parks may have significant environmental costs and impacts. We will develop regulations to ensure all facilities implement management practices consistent with environmental sustainability and minimum impact on the natural and human surroundings.

TOU 602: Physical deterioration of historic buildings and artefacts can also be a major problem, whether due to pollution or excessive contact with tourism. We support the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings. We recognise the important role tourists can play in this preservation. We will encourage local authorities to preserve, promote and maintain local cultural treasures of all kinds in co-operation with locally based non-governmental organisations.

TOU 603: Those local authorities covering areas attracting significant numbers of tourists should maintain a Tourism Consultative Committee, to involve local businesses, people and community organisations as a specialised advisory body to recommend policy improvements, based on principles of sustainability.

## **18. Equality and Diversity**

EDI 100: The Wales Green Party welcomes the policy progress made by the Welsh Government:

- in introducing the 2014 Social Services & Wellbeing Act, based on coproduction and citizen-directed support
- in acting on the Socio-economic Duty in the 2010 Equality Act
- in introducing the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2016
- in proposing an Access to Elected Office Fund to support disabled people wishing to enter elected offices
- in using the Regional Partnership Boards created under the 2014 Act to [ try to ] bring about joint-funded budgeting for health and social services as a stepping stone to making both health and social services free at the point of need and funded by progressive taxation.
- The Gerry Holtham report commissioned by Welsh Government shows that thinking is moving in the right direction.
- Welsh Government have also voiced interest in UBI which would provide more equal wellbeing outcomes in our society.

EDI 101: WGP wants to see more effort made to put policy into practice at the same time as continuing to engage in more innovation through co-production approaches.

EDI 102: Any radical move towards equality and diversity will need both to shift public attitudes about those with protected characteristics, but also to create shifts in taxation policy in order to fund a more open and inclusive society.

EDI 103: In addition to Welsh Government action WGP recognises and welcomes the huge contribution made by social movements and groups which contribute to learning, debate, policy innovation and wider social understanding. Such civil society groups should be more involved in governance, oversight and evaluation of equality and diversity policy and measurable outcomes in Wales.

EDI 104: Equality cannot be divorced from economy. Investment for equality **is** investment as disadvantaged groups can be net contributors to society if they are released from their current imprisonment of attempting to live without the conditions for a decent life and without necessary support.

## **LGBTIQ+**

### **Equality**

LGB 100: Wales Green Party will change laws to ensure equal rights and acceptance for LGBTIQ+ people.

LGB 101: We will commission a review of the legislation which stops men who have sex with men and women with bisexual male partners from donating blood, with the aim to scrap the 3 month ban .

### **Education for all**

LGB 200: Wales Green Party will work in partnership with education organisations to ensure that all teachers and support staff are adequately trained to deliver sex education safely and confidently to students and also to support students.

LGB 201: We will ensure that every school, college and university in Wales implements a specific LGBTIQ+ anti-bullying policy to ensure that students can feel safe and relaxed during an important and formative time of their lives.

LGB 202: We will locate sexual health workers in all schools, colleges and universities. We will ensure that they are trained to give confidential, supportive and impartial sexual health advice that is suitable for all regardless of sexual orientation.

LGB 203: We will ensure that young people are given the correct education around consensual sex and relationships.

### **Transgender Community**

LGB 300: We will work to ensure that non-binary people are protected in Wales. We will support expanding the definitions in the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that all non-binary people are protected.

LGB 301: We would ensure the introduction and retention of a transition clinic in Wales.

LGB 302: We would ensure front line services acknowledge people's gender identity, and their pronouns.

### **Mental Health**

LGB 400: We will work with mental health organisations to ensure that we have up to date information to make mental health a high priority.

LGB 401: We will ensure that public services are available to offer guidance and support for the LGBTIQ+ community at the point that they are needed. We will introduce a 24/7 confidential service in Wales, like Broken Rainbows.

### **Action on Racism in Wales**

AR 100: Wales Green Party recognises that systemic racism has been a part of our society for too long and that action must be taken. Although Wales has a proud history of anti-racist activity, change has been too slow and we have not yet succeeded in making changes in key social institutions, or in wider public attitudes and practices.

AR 101: The COVID pandemic has highlighted the structural inequality that persists in our society, with BAME groups experiencing multiple forms of discrimination and deprivation.

AR 102: The outpouring of activity in Wales in support of Black Lives Matter has highlighted that racism still exists in Wales today and must be addressed alongside international solidarity with anti-racist movements.

AR 103: Taking action on racism is a key Green issue on the grounds of equality and human rights. Further, we recognise that strong, creative and resilient communities are those in which all people have access to good housing, social support, and good work, can be safe, and can express their identities without fear.

### **Policies**

AR 200: Wales Green Party welcomes the 'Manifesto for an Anti-Racist Wales' and endorses its proposals. The following key points provide an overview of these commitments.

AR 201: Recognise Systemic Racism - There should be greater recognition from Welsh Government that racial, ethnic and religious intolerance is systemic and institutional, has increased post-Brexit, and that it threatens the possibility of future generations living in a diverse, safe and cohesive Wales.

AR 202: Measure Racial Inequality - Improve the gathering, monitoring and use of ethnic data in policy and practice; improve the range and scope of the disaggregated ethnicity data available – including intersectional data; Create a Race Disparity Unit in Welsh Government.

AR 203: Plan for Race Equality - Welsh Government should ensure rapid progression of its commitment to develop a strategic race equality plan, addressing key areas outlined in this document in a systematic, joined up and long-term way, and including clear targets and measurable outcomes addressing Racism, Education, Employment, Representation, Health & Housing