

# NEW VISION POLICY PROPOSALS

## DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

### Democracy

- \* Reform media ownership to ensure that no individual should own more than a certain percentage of media outreach in the UK.
- \* Implement the recommendations of the Leveson Enquiry.
- \* Provide serious citizenship education in schools.
- \* Begin a process to agree and implement proportional representation in all political elections held in the UK
- \* Promote citizens' assemblies to involve citizens in public affairs and generate serious and measured debate
- \* Create new forms of local democracy to generate a sense of belonging and responsibility

### Human rights

- \* Provide continuing education (for all ages) to make known and promote the UN Charter of Human Rights.
- \* Respect the Right to life by
  - a) enabling people in fear for their lives to come to UK.
  - b) de-incentivising the arms trade and prohibiting arms fairs.
- \* Respect the Right to a home by increasing the requirements placed on local councils for the provision of social housing.

## ECONOMIC & SOCIAL JUSTICE

- \* **Use** non-financial criteria to measure the success or otherwise of economic policy, taking into consideration the environment, climate emergency and gross domestic happiness
- \* **Co-operativise and democratise** local institutions and the economy to create a steady state economy without perpetual growth
- \* **Provide** a basic income for all, to meet their fundamental needs for security, inclusion and time for creativity
- \* **Devolve** control of the 'purse strings', giving more powers to local authorities
- \* **Treat** climate, the NHS and social care as more important than any current political agenda.
- \* **Establish** a "Just Transition Commission" on the Scottish model (see [gov.scot/groups/just-transition-commission/](https://www.gov.scot/groups/just-transition-commission/)).

## Proposals for moving from **insecurity to security** and **reclaiming our commons**:

- \* Poverty audits
- \* Follow the Preston Model for community wealth-building ( see <https://bathcooperatives.org/community-wealth-building/>), involving:
  - \* Anchor institutions
  - \* Community land trusts
  - \* Co-operative enterprises
  - \* Procurement on the basis of local benefit, environmental impact, challenging inequality and promoting social justice
- \* Basic income pilot
- \* A protected, sustainably funded NHS that is safe from changing political agendas.
- \* Free public transport

## ENVIRONMENT

### National focus:

- \* Give top priority to reducing emissions – make it the centre of ALL POLICIES, allocating sufficient resources as a percentage of GDP.
- \* Planning: relax onshore wind; give weight to community ownership; re-define test for new homes (see below).
- \* Green New Deal: support expansion of community energy; remove subsidy for fossil fuels; require whole house retrofits and introduce a zero carbon standard on new-build.
- \* Introduce support for a Circular Economy, e.g. ‘Right to Repair’ for products; mandatory separate food-waste collections for businesses and households; new leasing models for products such as cars and large electrical items.
- \* Nationalise and subsidise public transport.

### Local focus:

- \* Develop a Climate Emergency Centre for co-operation, co-ordination & positivity leading to real change
- \* Make and implement robust and ambitious School Transport Plans.
- \* Install more EV charge points throughout the area outside the city centre, for example at strategic points along commuter routes, including Park and Rides.
- \* Encourage the provision and use of local, community, renewable energy
- \* Create local re-use centres.
- \* Pedestrianise the city centre.

- \* Support community engagement/action, using Citizens' Assembly .
- \* Provide positive, practical actions for all – “DO ONE THING”.
- \* Encourage local food growing and encourage diet change.
- \* Prepare to welcome climate change refugees.
- \* Divestment & Procurement to be fossil-free.
- \* Re-wild green spaces.
- \* Ensure that the Planning Department prioritises climate and species protection in all its decisions. including those made in relation to listed buildings and those in Conservation Areas.
- \* Use opportunities to undertaking practical work to improve the environment in therapy and to improve human health.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & PEACE**

- \* Replace militarist assumptions behind policy on security: define security in terms of meeting human and planetary needs.
- \* Rebuild the UK's diplomatic capacity and its role in promoting co-operation and addressing conflicts constructively in line with a new ethical foreign policy whose focus is the wellbeing of all people and planet.
- \* Build on our ability to contribute to institutions we already have: WHO, FAO, IATA, IMO, UNESCO, WTO, ILO, UNEP, UN-Women etc.
- \* Support United Nations reform to create a strong and effective multilateral organisation where no country has veto power, abolishing the Security Council. Revive the goals of the Decade for a Culture of Peace.
- \* Make tied aid illegal and remove from it UK economic interests and military components.
- \* Implement and stand up for international treaty obligations and frameworks. In particular fulfil the UK's legally binding disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty by cancelling Trident and signing the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- \* Enforce existing arms trade laws and stop selling arms to regions of violent conflict subsidies for arms industry.
- \* Redirect government spending away from arms production towards climate-related research and development, industrial policies which offer well-paid and secure green jobs, and investment in eco-agriculture and land restoration – learning from and contributing to best practice internationally.
- \* Promote the setting up of a UN agency to control the application of technologies (AI, Nanotech, GMO, ICT etc).