

Aid, Trade and Climate Issues (Energy/Transport) in Party Manifesto Statements

(Draft Summary June 2017: Taken from statements)

Aid

Conservative

- “will maintain the commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of our gross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies” [latter includes aid to assist refugees in UK, which is permitted by OECD]
- But within that context “do not believe that international [OECD] definitions of development assistance always help in determining how money should be spent, on whom and for what purpose. So we will work with like-minded countries to change the rules... If that does not work, we will change the law to allow us to use a better definition of development spending, while continuing to meet our 0.7 per cent target. [For context: OECD rules determine what counts as aid – for example, they prevent 'tied aid' which requires recipients to buy donor goods, restrict the use of aid for military purposes, etc. They have been under discussion for some time. Many of the UK's largest aid agencies, including CAFOD, Tearfund, World Vision and Oxfam, [have written an open letter noting that OECD rules are not perfect but expressing concern](#) that unilateral change could undermine the OECD's role in scrutinising and preventing the misuse of aid]
- Foci of aid:
 - aligned with Sustainable Development Goals “to end extreme poverty, save children’s lives, and provide an education for girls”
 - “work to end the subjugation and mutilation of women, to combat the brutal slave trade in fellow human beings and to prevent catastrophic environmental degradation.”
 - “continue to lead global efforts to tackle sexual violence in conflict.”
 - “will significantly increase our funding of UK-led medical and technical research into the biggest threats to global health and prosperity.”

Labour

- “will continue to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on overseas development assistance, and develop a targeted development agenda based on the principles of redistribution, social justice, women’s rights and poverty reduction.”
- “will take robust action to end the self-regulation of Department for International Development private contractors, establishing and enforcing new rules”
- Foci for aid:
 - support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and “will develop a cross-government strategy for ensuring the SDGs are implemented, and report annually to Parliament on our performance.”
 - “will establish a Centre for Universal Health Coverage, providing global partnerships, support and encouragement to countries that want UHC, helping them to generate the funding and systems required for its delivery.”
 - “will invest in new public-health driven research and development to find effective and affordable treatments for diseases in the developing world, including fighting TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS and neglected tropical diseases.”
 - “will work in partnership with communities in the Global South to develop long-term strategies for strengthening economies and societies.... [and] reinstate the Civil Society Challenge Fund to support trade unions, women’s associations and other civil society organisations”

Liberal Democrats

- Will “maintain our commitment to spend 0.7% of UK gross national income on overseas development assistance, in line with the OECD definition, which we legislated for in the last parliament.”
- Foci of aid: “ending poverty and promoting environmentally sustainable development, through implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals,” and specifically
 - “invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support research and development into vaccinations and treatment to combat these and other deadly diseases and infections”
 - “Develop a global education strategy”
 - “Continue building the resilience of poorer countries to resist future disasters, investing in healthcare and infrastructure and training emergency response volunteers, and respond generously to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur.”
 - Provide greater resources for international environmental co-operation, particularly on climate change and on actions to tackle illegal and unsustainable trade in timber, wildlife, ivory and fish.”
 - Seek to protect global spending on international programmes of vaccination and family planning

Greens

- will “increase the overseas aid budget from 0.7% of GDP to 1.0% of GDP”

UKIP

- Rejects aid as a solution to poverty
- Will close the Department for International Development and repeal the law requiring the UK to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI on foreign aid.
- Will reduce the aid budget to 0.2 per cent of GNI over time and spend the money (est £10 billion a year) “on other priorities, such as the NHS.”
- “A single Minister For Overseas Development working out of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will administer aid”
- Will focus remaining aid on “projects that make a real difference: clean water programmes, childhood inoculations, medical assistance, and disaster and emergency relief.”
- “Will offer contracts for aid programmes to British providers first.”
- Will “commission, equip and staff a Naval Ocean-Going Surgical Hospital (NOSH) ... to deliver large-scale relief to our armed forces on active operational duties, to civilians and refugees in war zones, or to undertake humanitarian missions in peacetime [abroad and at home]”

Trade

Conservative

- EU: “Want[s] to negotiate a new deep and special partnership with the EU, which will allow free trade between the UK and the EU’s member states. As part of the agreement we strike, we want to make sure that there are as few barriers to trade and investment as possible.”
- Broader Multilateral System: “will ensure immediate stability by lodging new UK schedules with the World Trade Organization, in alignment with EU schedules to which we are bound whilst still a

member of the European Union.” “will continue to support the global multilateral rules-based trade system.”

- Free Trade Agreements “will seek to replicate all existing EU free trade agreements and support the ratification of trade agreements entered into during our EU membership [eg the Canada-EU Trade Agreement, CETA]
- Exports:
 - will create a network of nine new regional overseas posts, each with Trade Commissioners, to lead on export promotion, trade and investment policy overseas.
 - Will reconvene the Board of Trade with an export-focused membership drawn from across UK
 - will “work to forge a new culture of exporting among UK businesses, equipping them with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in the global marketplace”
 - “will take a more active role in supporting British consortia” to win global contracts. Will assist SMEs in identifying markets and sectors.
 - “will put UK Export Finance ... at the heart of the UK’s trade promotion proposition”
 - will promote visits for tourism, study and business through the GREAT Britain campaign and Visit Britain
- Actions of foreign entities in UK
 - will update rules governing mergers and takeovers” to prevent asset-stripping and enable scrutiny of purchasers' proposals.
 - Will “take action to protect our critical national infrastructure.[and] ensure foreign ownership of companies controlling important infrastructure does not undermine British security or essential services.

Labour

- With EU: “will scrap the Conservatives’ Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities that have a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union” “It is vital that we retain unrestricted access for our goods and services.”
- Multilateral trading system:
 - “is committed to the rules-based international trading system of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)”
 - “will rejoin the Government Procurement Agreement, whilst safeguarding the capacity for public bodies to make procurement decisions in keeping with public policy objectives “
 - “will work with other WTO members to end the dumping of state-subsidised goods on our markets.”
 - “will actively support international negotiations towards an Environmental Goods Agreement at the WTO”
- Free Trade Agreements:
 - “will review our historic investment treaties with other countries” “opposes parallel investor-state dispute systems for multinational corporations and we will open a dialogue with trading partners on alternative options that provide investor protection whilst guaranteeing equality before the laws”
 - “will set out ... priorities in an International Trade White Paper to lead a national debate on the future of Britain’s trade policy and will ensure proper transparency and parliamentary scrutiny of all future trade and investment deals”
 - Will work through Just Trading initiative “with global trading partners to develop 'best-in-class' free trade and investment agreements that remove trade barriers and promote skilled jobs and high standards
 - will ensure all future trade deals safeguard the right to regulate in the public interest and to protect public services. “
 - “will use trade negotiations to boost market access for British environmental goods and services, alongside support for investment into new green technologies and innovative low-

carbon products”

- Place of regulations in trade: “will make sure that all EU-derived laws that are of benefit - including workplace laws, consumer rights and environmental protections – are fully protected without qualifications, limitations or sunset clauses. ... will build human rights and social justice into trade policy [and] ensure that trade agreements cannot undermine human rights and labour standards”
- Exports: will
 - “champion the export interests of SMEs, ensuring all new trade agreements include a commitment to support their market access needs ... will develop an export incentive scheme for SMEs based on international best practice, and ... will ring-fence Tradeshow Access Programme grants to help SMEs reach new customers”
 - will use the full range of export credit, finance, insurance and trade promotion tools to boost British exports and support priority industrial sectors” while ensuring “UK Export Finance support is not available to companies engaged in bribery or corrupt practices.”
 - “will create a network of regional trade and investment champions to promote the export and investment interests of businesses across the country, and ... will include regional representation on overseas trade missions”
- Actions of foreign entities in UK: “will develop capital investment schemes and other incentives to encourage investment into the UK, especially into target areas identified by the industrial strategy ... will champion the UK as a safe investment environment”
- Trade and Development: will “guarantee least developed countries access to the British market” after Brexit [refers to continuation of duty-free, quota-free access guaranteed by EU to LDCs]
- Arms Trade: “Labour supports the considerable contribution that a responsible, world-leading defence and security industry makes to the UK economy. However, we also believe that strong export controls have a vital role to play in sustaining a legitimate trade in arms, while protecting UK jobs and R&D. Labour will therefore implement the Arms Trade Treaty to a consistently high standard, including ceasing arms exports to countries where there is concern that they will be used to violate international humanitarian law (IHL). In particular, Labour will demand a comprehensive, independent, UN-led investigation into alleged violations of IHL in Yemen, including air strikes on civilians by the Saudi-led coalition. We will immediately suspend any further arms sales for use in the conflict until that investigation is concluded.”

Liberal Democrats

- With EU,
 - “believe that any deal negotiated for the UK outside the EU must ensure that trade can continue without customs controls at the border, and must maintain membership of the single market” providing common rules and mechanism of enforcement.
 - “Support the principle of freedom of movement: “any deal negotiated for the UK outside the EU must protect the right to work, travel, study and retire across the EU. Any restrictions sought by the government must take account of the vital importance of EU workers to the British economy, including public services.”
 - Seek to maintain protections currently guaranteed under EU law in workers rights, environment, etc
 - “The City of London is Europe’s financial capital and must retain its full rights in EU financial markets.”
- Place of regulations in trade: Ensure that future trade deals require high safety, environmental and animal welfare standards for food imports, including clear and unambiguous country-of-origin origin labelling for meat and dairy products.
- Exports: Build on the Coalition’s industrial strategy, working with sectors which are critical to Britain’s ability to trade internationally, creating more ‘catapult’ innovation and technology centres and backing private investment in particular in green innovation

- Trade and Development
 - Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military co-operation – to strengthen UK efforts to prevent violent conflict
 - Introduce Sustainable Development Goals audits of new trade, investment and development deals, reviewing the impact of the deal on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership
- Arms Trade: will “control arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s annual human rights report and suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia.”

Greens

- With EU, “Protect freedom of movement, press for remaining within the single market, and safeguard vital rights for people and the environment.”
- Place of regulations in trade: Will promote “trade rules that respect human rights, labour standards, environmental standards and climate commitments with mechanisms for individuals, groups and communities to bring grievances”
- Arms Trade: “No more arms sales to oppressive regimes.”

UKIP

- With EU: “We should like to agree a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU, and continue to trade on the same basis as at present.... However, if the EU continues to make unreasonable demands [specified as payment of £100 billion, acceptance of European Court of Justice's jurisdiction, free movement] in return for even talking about free trade, then we must be prepared to walk away.”
- Place of regulations: “Establish the UK on the world market as a low tax, low regulation economy. The UK will contribute to the World Trade Organisation’s aim for trade to flow as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. We will reduce tariffs wherever possible, unless initiating anti-dumping measures, and oppose the establishment and continuance of protectionist customs unions”
- Free Trade Agreements:
 - Seek trade agreements with Commonwealth countries
 - Seek 'swift free trade agreement bolstering our common interests' with US
- Trade and Development: “Will make ‘Transition to Trade’ offers to some of the biggest aid recipient nations” while reducing aid. “UKIP will seek to support the economies, infrastructure development, education, health, agriculture and trading capacity of developing nations. We will not engage in unethical trade practices that harm or inhibit their trade, traditional lifestyles, or natural resources.” (appears to imply an end to tariff escalation, whereby raw products don't attract tariffs and manufactured products do)

Energy

Fracking

The most noticeable differences are around the role of shale gas (fracking) and the energy mix. The **Conservatives** make fracking a centrepiece of their energy strategy, and **UKIP** say they will explore and develop if viable, while the **Liberal Democrats** would oppose it, and **Labour** and the **Greens** would ban it, with Labour explaining that they would do so “because it would lock us into an energy infrastructure based on fossil fuels, long after the point in 2030 when the Committee on Climate Change says gas in the UK must sharply decline.”

The Energy Mix

On the energy mix more generally, the **Conservatives** indicate that they "want to see a diverse range of sources" in order to stimulate innovation and "get the right generation in the right place." They indicate continued support for the oil and gas industries, nuclear power and large-scale offshore wind, but not for large-scale onshore wind. They set no target for renewables as a percentage of the energy mix, and their language suggests that the EU targets in this area will probably not be carried over post-Brexit: "after we have left the European Union, we will form our energy policy not on the way energy is generated but on the ends we desire - reliable and affordable energy, seizing the industrial opportunity that new technology presents and meeting our global commitments on climate change."

Like the Conservatives, **Labour** focuses on reliability, cost and meeting climate targets, but it also explicitly mentions the transition to a low-carbon economy and aims to "take energy back into public ownership." Its manifesto also mentions 'safeguard[ing] the offshore oil and gas industry' with a "strategy focused on protecting vital North Sea assets," and commits in addition to carbon capture and storage, nuclear, and "renewable energy projects, including tidal lagoons." Labour mentions meeting both global commitments and those in the Climate Change Act - and seeks to retain membership both in the single market for energy and in Euratom.

The **Liberal Democrats** pledge to "[pass a Zero Carbon Britain Act to set new legally binding targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2040 and to zero by 2050." They oppose fracking and don't mention support for oil and gas. Instead they focus on expanding renewable energy, "aiming to generate 60% of electricity from renewables by 2030, restoring government support for solar PV and onshore wind in appropriate locations (helping meet climate targets at least cost) and building more electricity interconnectors to underpin this higher reliance on renewables." They also say they will support carbon capture and storage, and investment "in cutting-edge technologies including energy storage, smart grid technology, hydrogen technologies, off-shore wind, and tidal power" as well as supporting research and development more broadly. They acknowledge that nuclear power can have a role, though with caveats. They would "provide assistance to areas heavily dependent on fossil fuel industries ... the north-east of Scotland, to diversify away from these industries."

The **Greens** focus on renewables as a way "to both tackle climate change and take back control of our energy system." They would phase out fossil-fuel subsidies, bring forward the coal phase-out to 2023, divest public funds from fossil fuel, and work to "ensure a just transition" for communities with significant fossil fuel jobs. They would also scrap plans for new nuclear plants, investing instead in a new renewables-based energy system, including onshore and offshore wind, solar photovoltaics, marine renewables, and a plan to decarbonise heat. To support this, they plan for "a smarter, networked grid, with battery-storage, demand-side measures, and interconnection." They propose a new 'Green Investment and Innovation Centre' to help "finance the transition to a zero-carbon economy" as well as specific forms of finance to assist community energy projects.

UKIP "will repeal the 2008 Climate Change Act and support a diverse energy market based on coal, nuclear, shale gas, conventional gas, oil, solar and hydro, as well as other renewables when they can be delivered at competitive prices." The party also pledges to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, "to enhance our industrial competitiveness."

Transport

The **Conservatives** commit to investment to increase capacity in both roads and railways, promising £40 billion of investment on 'transport improvements' between now and 2020.

- On roads, there is a commitment to extra lanes on motorways and a broader commitment to "continue to develop the strategic road network ... improving key routes whilst also paying attention to parts of the country left behind because of poor transport connections" and fixing

"pinch points" The road investment is accompanied by a pledge that the Conservatives want "Britain to lead the world in electric vehicle technology and use" and would like "almost every car and van to be zero-emission by 2050 - and will invest £600 million by 2020 to help achieve it."

- On the rail front, the foci are extra capacity to ease overcrowding, new lines and stations, increased services both for main line travellers and commuter service users, new services for underserved areas, and "improvements" to existing passenger and freight routes. There is also a commitment to completion of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail.
- On air travel, the Conservatives commit to the expansion of Heathrow Airport.
- They also note support for low-emission buses in urban areas, community minibuses in rural areas, and local authority efforts on cycling.

Labour headlines its transport plans with a commitment to invest in a "modern, integrated, accessible and sustainable transport system that is reliable and affordable."

- The "backbone" of this proposed system is the rail network, which Labour promises to bring back into public ownership. Major initiatives include completion of HS2; "rail electrification and expansion across the whole country, including in Wales and the South West"; linkage of HS2 to "Crossrail of the North" and the Durham Freight Centre; and creation of a new Brighton Main Line for the South East, Crossrail 2 in London, and the Science Vale route linking Oxford and Cambridge.
- Looking at other modes of transport, Labour commits to study feasibility of port development.
- On roads, it pledges to "upgrade our highways and improve roadworks at known bottlenecks" as well as striving for road safety and refocusing roads building and maintenance programmes. The party also commits to "position the UK at the forefront of the development, manufacture and use of ultra low emission vehicles, supporting the creation of clean modes of transport through investment in low emission vehicles."
- On buses, it promises to "retrofit thousands of diesel buses" in areas with poor air quality, to extend "powers to re-regulate local bus services to all areas that want them", to support the creation of municipal bus companies, and "to designate and protect [bus] routes of critical community value, including those that serve local schools, hospitals and ." It commits to reform of legislation governing taxis and private hire vehicles, and would invite recommendations for developing and upgrading the National Cycle Network.
- On airport expansion, Labour "recognises the need for additional airport capacity in the South East ... welcome[s] the work done by the Airports Commission, and ... will guarantee that any airport expansion adheres to our tests that require noise issues to be addressed, air quality to be protected, the UK's climate change obligations met and growth across the country supported"

The **Liberal Democrats** also commit to "significant investment in road and rail infrastructure" and emphasise the importance of public transport to connect people in both urban and rural areas.

- On the rail front, they promise a stronger requirement for customer focus in franchises, allow for franchise bids by public sector bodies and mutual groups, and suggest government-run companies to take over, in the short term, the troubled Southern Rail and Govia Thameslink franchises. They commit to major initiatives including HS2, HS3, Crossrail 2, the "development of a high-speed network stretching to Scotland" and the Oxford to Cambridge line. They also commit to "pursue the electrification of the rail network"; to restore twin-track lines on major routes; to deliver strategic improvements in the North, the south-west peninsula, and London; and to improve stations and re-open smaller stations.
- On buses, they pledge to "halt the decline in bus services and carry out a review of bus funding and bus policies" as well as to "give principal local authorities the power to run, commission and regulate the bus network in their area." They also propose a bus discount card for 16-21s, offering a

2/3 discount on bus fares.

- In addition to a "Green Transport Act" they commit to introduce an Air Quality Plan, primarily directed at road traffic. This would include "a diesel scrappage scheme, and a ban on the sale of diesel cars and small vans in the UK by 2025, extending Ultra-Low Emission Zones to ten more towns and cities" requiring "all private hire vehicles and diesel buses licensed to operate in urban areas to run on ultra-low emission or zero emission fuels within five years, reform [of] vehicle taxation to encourage sales of electric and low-emission vehicles and [the development of] electric vehicle infrastructure including universal charging points."
- On air travel, they pledge to "develop a strategic airports policy for the the whole of the UK, taking full account of the impacts on climate change and local pollution." They oppose expansion of the main London airports and the development of a new London Airport and "will focus instead on improving existing regional airports such as Birmingham and Manchester" while "ensur[ing] no net increase in runways across the UK."
- They propose "to implement the recommendations of the Get Britain Cycling report."

The **Greens** focus on public transport.

- Like Labour, they commit to "return the railways to public ownership." Rather than committing to major new initiatives like HS2, which they regard as a waste of funds, they commit to "Invest in regional rail links and electrification of existing rail lines, especially in the South West and North of England."
- They pledge to re-regulate buses, "investing in increased bus services especially in rural and other poorly served areas" and propose a "phase-in of free local public transport for young people, students, people with disabilities, and older people."
- On road traffic, like the Liberal Democrats, they favour a new Clean Air Act, which would "expand and strengthen a mandatory Clean Air Zone". They do not support the national roads programme and would "increase incentives to take diesel vehicles off the roads" by increasing Vehicle Excise Duty on new diesel vehicles and introducing a scrappage scheme.
- On air travel, they commit to "cancel all airport expansion and end subsidies on airline fuel."
- They would, however, directly "invest in low traffic neighbourhoods and safe, convenient networks of routes for walking and cycling"

UKIP places equal importance on "an operational road system and reliable public transport networks."

- On rail, it would scrap HS2 and instead "invest in upgrading existing main line services to create additional capacity, expand electrification, and improve east-west rail services and connections across the north of England."
- On road travel, UKIP commits to removing road tolls and opposes the location of a proposed new Thames crossing. UKIP supports the current £2,000 scrappage scheme on diesel and "will combine it with an incentive scheme encouraging drivers to exchange their vehicles for electric or hybrid models," but "will prevent diesel drivers from being penalised through higher taxes, parking fees, or emissions' zone charging." It commits to "support the transition to zero emission vehicles," and commits support to creating the infrastructure for such vehicles, including installation of rapid charging stations in towns and cities and charging provision in new developments.
- On buses, it commits to "provide start-up grants to support community bus operators using smaller and more efficient buses where commercial operators have cut essential services" in rural areas.
- On air travel, it commits to freezing Air Passenger Duty and aims to reduce and ultimately to scrap it. It opposes expansion of Heathrow, but states a "clear commercial need for additional airport capacity in the South East," so proposes a new airport in Kent. It will also "continue to support the

expansion of smaller regional airports."