**Scottish Parliament Elections 2021 – manifesto comparison**

**Background and purpose of the document**

This document was compiled on behalf of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) for Quakers in Scotland. The document compares manifesto commitments from the five major parties in Scotland against the six key asks that the PEWG put to each of the parties during our meetings and correspondence with them as they compiled their manifestos. The document highlights the level to which the promises made within each party manifesto align with these asks. In addition this document highlights areas of agreement or similarity across each of the party manifestos as well as policies that might be of interest to Friends more broadly.

In doing this, this document is not intended to advise or guide anyone in how they should vote, that is a matter for personal conscience. Instead the purpose of this document is to allow the PEWG to:

1. Gauge the extent to which party manifestos reflect the policy asks that they put to each of the parties during the manifesto writing process.
2. Assess the direction of travel within Scottish politics over the next five years
3. Plan our priorities and strategy for engagement with parliament over the next five years.

The document uses direct quotes from each of the party manifestos. However it should also be recognised that this document does not cover every topic covered within the manifestos, and we would encourage people to read the manifestos for themselves.

**Comparison**

1. **What we asked for:** Support people out of the recessionby phasing out investment in fossil fuels and increase investment in environment- and nature-friendly industries. Ensure any COVID-19 financial rescue packages for companies are granted on strict conditions that put people and planet first.

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| **SNP**  (Largely aligned) | **Scottish Greens**  (Aligned) | **Scottish Liberal Democrats**  (Largely aligned) | **Scottish Conservatives**  (somewhat aligned) | **Labour**  (Largely aligned) |
| - invest £100million in a green jobs fund  - Begin work to deliver a minimum income guarantee  - Establish a new Green Jobs Workforce Academy  - Invest £60million to decarbonise our industrial and manufacturing sectors  - Over the lifetime of the next parliament we will invest £180 million in an Emerging Energy Technologies Fund  - £15 million next year for oil and gas workers to retrain.  - £34 million to decarbonise heavy industry in Scotland  - £26 million to support the development of robust supply chains in low carbon industries  - Establish a £62 million Energy Transition Fund  - Double Scottish Child Payment by end of next parliament  - we will work with the aviation sector in Scotland to help it recover and rebuild connectivity  - we will continue our work to pilot low or zero emissions planes between Scotland’s islands | - Establish a Good Business Council to advise the Scottish Government on the delivery of a green economic recovery  - Ensure enterprise and infrastructure funding is targeted at the low carbon economy and green manufacturing and apply strict conditions to ensure that companies support jobs in Scottish supply chains.  - £22bn programme to renew our railways, supporting at least 16,800 jobs  - £3bn in warm and zero-carbon homes and buildings, leveraging £7.5bn in private investment and creating over 75,000 jobs.  - £450m in renewables, a new deal for onshore wind and a support programme for the development of a world-leading tidal sector in Scotland, creating 10,000 jobs.  - £895m to restore Scotland’s natural environment, creating over 6,000 green rural jobs  - Over the course of the next Parliament, the Scottish Greens will expand the Young Person’s Guarantee to all under 30 and to those who work in fossil fuel industries.  - Require businesses with a turnover of £5m or more to publish an environmental, social and corporate report alongside their annual financial reports.  - Support the partial replacement of corporation tax at the UK level with a carbon tax that increases over time in line with our climate targets. | - We will offer a job guarantee for every 16- 24-year-old so that they all have access to a job or training.  - We will offer new Scottish Training Bonds for people to help them change careers. We will accompany the bonds, worth up to £5,000, with careers advice to help people future-proof their new skills.  - Provide transition support and specialist low carbon advice free of charge to businesses on how to minimise the impact of their work on the environment.  - Our investment plans for warmer homes, new heat networks and hydrogen power will create thousands of jobs. These will use the technical and engineering skills from the oil and gas industry and be part of a just transition.  - Identify the biggest polluters and work with them to establish transition plans  - Commitments from industries including food and drink, agriculture, energy, construction and facilities management sectors, along with major public sector resource consumers such as the NHS, to adopt circular economy approaches and reduce waste and environmental impact. | - introduce a Right to Retrain Account for every single Scottish adult, containing £500 to be spent on training every year.  - bring forward an Enterprise Bill establishing an economic development agency in each region of Scotland.  - We believe that North Sea oil and gas has a long future of many decades ahead, with petrochemicals continuing to be used in the plastics, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals we use every day  - Scotland’s airports must be supported to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on air travel, including the maintenance of vital routes within the UK  - We support maintaining parity with the rest of the UK on Air Departure Tax | - Ensure that every business that wants to work with the public sector has a clear carbon reduction plan and a commitment to achieving net zero.  - Deliver a statutory Just Transition Commission to focus on how the transition to net zero would benefit those who are unemployed, underemployed or who are at risk of unemployment as a result of the current economic crisis and the transition.  - A Scottish Conservation Corps would be established, modelled on the Civilian Conservation Corps of the New Deal, to employ and train a new workforce dedicated to restoring Scotland’s natural environment. This could employ up to 10,000 people.  - build expertise in decommissioning and marine renewables  - Our programme to build energy efficient council homes would sustain up to 19,000 jobs  - Our plan to expand Scotland’s bus network and buy electric buses from domestic manufacturers would create jobs and improve air quality  - Procure local climate friendly goods and encouraging domestic producers to reduce their emissions  - Where no supply chain exists, invest to help existing companies diversify or support the creation of new supply chains.  - [aviation] Key to the recovery plan will be a commitment from the industry that any support will be predicated on reducing CO2 emissions and combating the climate emergency.  - Investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS) infrastructure would deliver construction and engineering jobs across Scotland |

1. **What we asked for:** Tackle fuel poverty: Make all homes energy efficient by 2030 and introduce a world-leading renewable electricity system, including local and district systems. This would also provide greater resilience in times of global crisis, and bring the benefits of public and community ownership.

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| - invest £1.6 billion over the lifetime of the next parliament to decarbonise heating of 1 million homes by 2030  - establish a Zero Emissions Social Housing Task Force  - all new housing to use renewable and zero emissions heating from 2024  - By 2050 we aim to have decarbonised our energy system almost completely | - Fund an “energy leap” programme to pioneer and then roll-out deep retrofits at scale. This approach upgrades the most inefficient homes to the highest efficiency rating, taking a cost-effective whole street approach and using offsite manufacturing to improve quality and minimise disruption  - A commitment to sourcing at least 70% of the onshore wind supply chain domestically.  - Encouraging at least 20% of new windfarms to be owned by the community and requiring discounted energy deals to be offered to local communities.  - set a target of 1GW of installed tidal energy in Scotland by 2030, creating at least 4,000 green jobs and putting us at the leading edge of a global industry  - Establish a Green Rural Homes service, bringing together engagement, enhanced support and advice services for homeowners and landlords in rural areas that are off the gas grid.  - Introduce green heat grants for households to replace fossil fuel boilers with green alternatives, principally heat pumps, with the aim of installing 500,000 by 2030. Grants will be available and will mean that households pay no more than the cost of a gas boiler.  - Establish a £500m heat networks fund to support the expansion of local and district heat networks, connecting 20,000 homes and creating 3,000 jobs  - Require all new homes to meet passivhaus or other net-zero standards, be connected to the public transport system and be built in areas that are not in flood-risk zones. This will apply to all homes built from 2022 onwards.  - Require all private sector homes to meet at least EPC C at the point of sale of major refurbishment from 2025 | - Move one million homes to zero emission heating by 2030.  - Invest in low carbon heat networks  - Double the programmes to end fuel poverty.  - Scale up investment in energy efficiency and low carbon heating for Scotland’s homes, with an initial five year programme that will improve 80,000 homes per year.  - Switch a million homes from polluting mains gas to heat pumps by 2030 as part of our major new infrastructure programme.  - Set a target for all new social housing, including affordable homes, to be built to Passivhaus standards by 2025, and increase building standards to require all new-build residential properties to meet EPC A ratings by 2025, and Passivhaus standards by 2030.  - Introduce the delayed energy efficiency regulations to require landlords to meet higher energy standards within five years, and make it easier for people in shared buildings to agree to upgrades and improvements.  - Make district heating the normal choice for new developments, and support the move away from new gas heating installation. | - spend over £2.5 billion over the next five years on energy efficiency in homes and buildings  - We need to deliver a wholly renewable powered Scotland, and we have the wealth of natural resources to achieve this.  - We will support the development of emerging renewable technologies, particularly tidal, as we look to make Scotland a renewable powerhouse  - We will make the adoption of green hydrogen a priority, as a fuel source in transport and for supporting the exporting of renewable power, as we deliver Scotland’s clean energy transformation. | - Upgrade all homes to at least an energy efficiency rating of C or higher by 2030 and, where possible, zero carbon by 2045.  - Establish a national housing agency to work closely with local authorities and coordinate the roll out of measures including insulation, double glazing, boiler replacement, forms of renewable heat, and heat networks.  - Low and middle income households would be awarded grant funding while other households would be offered interest free loans to pay for the upgrades, up to the value of £18,000. Fuel poor and rural homes would be targeted first.  - Establish the Scottish Energy Development Agency to coordinate the growth in renewable energy production including in skills and training. It would work closely with the Scottish National Investment Bank to invest in the development of the domestic supply chain.  - We support building 200,000 zero carbon social homes over ten years, with parity of grant funding between councils, cooperatives and housing associations.  - Planning laws should be used to ensure that all future houses are built to the highest available efficiency standards.  - a commitment to eradicating fuel poverty by 2032, |

1. **What we asked for:** Create healthier and safer communities: Invest in cycling and walking infrastructure and public transport, and bring forward the phasing-out of new petrol and diesel cars and vans to 2030.

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| **SNP**  (Aligned) | **Scottish Greens**  (Aligned) | **Scottish Liberal Democrats**  (Aligned) | **Scottish Conservatives**  (Largely aligned) | **Labour**  (Largely aligned) |
| - Phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030  - Providing free bikes to all children of school age who can’t afford them  - removing the majority of fossil fuel buses in public transport by 2023  - extend free bus travel to everyone under 22  - Spend 10% of the transport budget on walking, cycling and wheeling  - reduce car use by 20% by 2030  - bring scotrail into public ownership from next year and decarbonise Scotland’s rail services by 2035 | - Create a town and city centre green transformation fund to re-orient these places towards pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable road users including children, the elderly and disabled people.  - Ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2026.  - Support a Safe to School programme to ensure every child who lives within two miles of school is able to safely walk or wheel there, and that those who live further away have access to a school bus.  -Introduce a 20mph default speed limit in built-up areas, saving lives and making cycling and walking safer and more attractive.  - Make it easier to take bikes on buses and trains and require all new buses and trains to be designed to carry bikes.  - Encourage and support the use of demand management schemes at the local level, including workplace parking levies, congestion charging and parking charges that disincentivise the use of the most polluting and larger vehicles  - Agree a funded strategy with bus manufacturers and operators to electrify the fleet whilst ending public support for new buses that are not fully electric from 2022. | - Support active travel, making it easier to make safe journeys by bike or on foot.  - Change town planning processes to make sure roads have separate spaces for cyclists, walkers and motorists, to keep them all safe.  - Make cycling more attractive with a new challenge fund to help install showers and changing rooms in workplaces or community facilities.  - Aim to double the share of the budget spent on active travel, and bring forward the £50 million programme for Active Freeway routes from town centres to outlying neighbourhoods  - Reopen railway lines and move away from fossil fuels on the network.  - Decarbonise commuting through more support for e-bikes, as part of a plan to increase government support for households to buy or use forms of electric transport.  - Plan so that every child has done their cycling proficiency test by the end of primary school, and every adult can take tuition and a test if they want it.  - Extend free bus travel for young people to include ferry links.  - Insist on a Fatal Accident Inquiry for each pedestrian death and require regional transport authorities to take remedial action. | - Increase the share of the transport budget which is spent on active travel to 10 per cent.  - By the end of the next Parliament, every city in Scotland should have a cycle network designed for commuting  - implement provisions in the 2019 Transport Act to allow local councils to propose bus services in their area  - develop a long-term transition strategy to give operators the confidence to invest in hydrogen and electric buses  - Efforts to decarbonise Scotland’s railways must be stepped up, including the electrification of more lines | - Invest in councils to create urban and rural safe active travel routes, green spaces and food growing places.  - Increase active travel spending to 10% of the overall transport budget, giving priority to encouraging and enabling people to get out of their cars, onto bikes, and walk more  - Reprioritise and expand the implementation of low emission zones in Scotland  - Explore the implementation of minimum air quality standards around our schools  - Introduce free bus travel to under 25s and invest in the manufacture and widespread introduction of accessible low-emission buses.  - Support the delivery of traffic-free greenways connecting key rural communities separated by short distances of less than 10 miles, particularly those with shared public services  - Scottish Labour will carry out a complete review of our branch rail network, seeking to increase rail connectivity between our smaller towns and villages,  - Decarbonise Scotland’s railways within 15 years, focusing on a rolling programme of electrification  - Enact the Transport Act, enabling bus services to go back into public hands with start-up resources for councils to run them  - Ensuring that rural bus routes are expanded to ensure a regular, affordable service for those who rely on it |

1. **Maintain Scotland’s peatland as key to carbon capture:** Fulfil our major global responsibility in caring for our peatland, which is vital for carbon sequestration. We welcome the amount of tree planting that has taken place in Scotland but are concerned that this may be done at the expense of peatland – even shallow peat if tree planting incentives are wrongly applied

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| - invest more than £250 million over ten years to support the restoration of 250,000 hectares of Scottish peatland | - Ban peat extraction and sale for horticultural use.  - Ban the burning of peatlands and license any other proposed burning.  - £145m more to restore peatlands, Scotland’s most important carbon store, putting us on target to restore all peatland by 2030, creating 414 jobs and the same again indirectly.  - Requiring all new onshore wind farms to have a net positive impact on nature, for example through peatland and habitat restoration.  -£150m for the nature restoration fund to restore key habitats, such as wetlands, rivers and our coastlines, creating 428 jobs directly and indirectly. | - Increase biodiversity and restore peatlands to create scientific, technical and engineering opportunities in remote areas  - Set legally binding nature recovery targets, with an action plan and financial support for delivery.  - Protect and restore carbon-rich habitats while phasing out harmful practices | - we would end peat extraction for use in compost and we would aim to increase peatland restoration to 20,000 hectares annually by 2024-25.  - We would establish Nature Networks across Scotland to better safeguard protected areas, allow species to move between habitats and ensure that our natural assets are treated as part of our national infrastructure. | - Plant at least 15,000 hectares of trees a year and increase peatland restoration to 20,000 hectares each year, alongside measures to end commercial peat extraction |

1. **Address inequality created by land ownership in Scotland:** Introduce a land tax and further incentives to create community land ownership (urban and rural)

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| **SNP**  (Largely aligned) | **Scottish Greens**  (Largely aligned) | **Scottish Liberal Democrats**  (Largely aligned) | **Scottish Conservatives**  (Somewhat aligned) | **Labour**  (Largely aligned) |
| - double the Scottish Land Fund  - Introduce new Land Reform Bill with a pre-emption in favour of community buy-out  - a £50million Vacant and Derelict land Investment Programme will ensure that land is utilised for maximum environmental and community benefit.  - bring forward new legislation to introduce Land Value Capture | - Support community ownership by encouraging the transfer of ownership from Forestry and Land Scotland and Local Authorities to communities via a simplified Community Asset Transfer Scheme  - Commit £10m p.a. more to the Scottish Land Fund, earmarked for reforestation schemes  - Bring forward a Land Reform Act to tackle monopolies, promote fairer management of land and regulate the sale of land.  - Commission a review of taxation and subsidies relating to land ownership.  - Regulate the sale of land of national or community significance.  - Require significant landholdings to produce a transparent land management plan and be subject to a public interest test.  - Introduce restrictions on overseas ownership of land.  - Give Scotland’s Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement a statutory footing, requiring large landowners - private, public and third sector - to act responsibly.  - Review take-up of existing Community Rights to Buy and the Community Asset Transfer scheme to ensure they are fit for purpose.  - Review the valuation of land so communities are not forced to pay market rates for land to already wealthy landowners.  - Increase support and reduce costs for communities wishing to take charge of land through existing community empowerment legislation. | - Establish a right for communities to protect threatened community facilities through different ownership or the use of shared premises as hubs. Community groups or cooperatives should be given a fair chance to purchase or acquire these assets  - Expand the Scottish Land Fund to help further community ownership across Scotland, empowering sustainable communities to repopulate.  - Prioritise land acquisition for communities by developing a localised service to assist self-builders and communities in securing land to meet housing demand, coordinating with local authorities, landowners and housing associations  - Give the Scottish Land Commission the power to legally enforce the voluntary Rights and Responsibilities Protocols that govern the relationship between landowners and communities, like the mandatory codes of practice overseen by the Tenant Farming Commissioner.  - Replace council tax with a land value system | - introduce Compulsory Sales Orders for long-term unoccupied properties in Scotland.  - By the end of the Parliament, we would seek to ensure that Scottish taxpayers do not pay higher income tax than those in the rest of the UK | - Establish a National Housing Agency which is centrally responsible for the acquisition of finance; land and housing; and dealing with derelict and vacant land, and act as a prime mover in driving the delivery of housing.  - reinstate the ability of public authorities to acquire land at existing use value for social homes.  - Legislate to ensure that no one individual can acquire large swathes of Scotland’s land and prevent land ownership via offshore tax-havens  - Increase funding for the Scottish Land Fund, using the revenue from seabed licensing,  - Public sector agencies should be enabled to participate in land markets with the aim of transferring the land into local vehicles of sustainable local ownership, as a basis for local wealth building and income retention |

1. **Strengthen Scotland’s reputation for quality produce:** Post-Brexit regulations and support can ensure UK supply chains aren’t destroying the planet; provide greater opportunity for jobs in the rural economy; and guarantee that all food imports will meet the same legal environment, food safety and animal welfare standards as food that is produced in the EU.

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| **SNP**  (Aligned) | **Scottish Greens**  (Aligned) | **Scottish Liberal Democrats**  (Aligned) | **Scottish Conservatives**  (Not aligned) | **Labour**  (Largely aligned) |
| - Produce a Local Food Strategy which supports locally based production and circular supply chains  - Work with local authorities to make more land available for community market gardens, orchards and allotments  - We will therefore stay broadly aligned with EU measures and policy developments like the Farm to Fork strategy, while transforming how we support farming and food production in Scotland. | - Deliver a new Agriculture Bill that enshrines the principles of climate and nature recovery into a new agricultural support scheme.  - Make emission reductions and climate mitigation measures a compulsory requirement for all subsidies, delivering significant change at no extra cost.  - Replace current grants with Land Management Contracts, which will support farmers to deliver a range of public benefits including organic farmland conversion, agroforestry, agroecology, soil conservation and peatland restoration, flood management, wetland creation, landscape restoration and public access, renewable energy, rewilding and species reintroductions.  - Maintain EU bans on bee-harming pesticides, and phase out the use of neonicotinoids in the forestry sector.  - Make environmental measures compulsory for basic farm payments, such as the roll out of whole-farm carbon audits and soil testing.  - Deliver a National Nitrogen Strategy to cut down excessive use of inorganic fertiliser, prevent air and water pollution, improve soil health, and slash greenhouse gases.  - Develop a carbon food labelling scheme.  - Maintain the ban on Genetically Modified foods and production in Scotland. | - We will consult on a Good Food Nation Bill to bring together reforms needed to promote food and drink as a resilient part of our economy. This will include measures to cut food miles by valuing seasonal Scottish produce in a Scotland first public procurement policy  - We will work with the farming and crofting communities to develop a new system of farm support to replace closing EU schemes. We will provide new incentives to help farmers transition to a more sustainable agriculture, provide support for high quality food production  - We will ensure that high UK food standards are not undermined in new trade deals  - We will expand and diversify the Farm Advisory Service to provide new jobs, training and skills, that support sustainable land use | - We also would take forward measures to improve the welfare of farmed animals in transportation. In doing so, we will take account of Scotland’s geography and established farming models. We do not believe that the scheme as proposed in England is right for Scotland. | - We believe that the new agricultural support package offers a valuable opportunity to deliver on baseline environmental commitments, and incentivise actions that deliver food production, climate and biodiversity outcomes in a complementary fashion  - deliver a comprehensive Good Food Nation Act based on proposals by the Scottish Food Coalition. We would invest in councils to create more food growing places.  - Ensuring the Right to Food is included in legislation for a National Food Plan |

**Additional areas of agreement between parties / interest for Friends**

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| **SNP** | **Scottish Greens** | **Scottish Liberal Democrats** | **Scottish Conservatives** | **Labour** |
| -introduce a circular economy Bill  - citizens assembly each year, first on council tax  - incorporate four more United Nations Human Rights treaties into scots law.  - protecting at least 30% of Scotland’s land for biodiversity by 2030   * Bairns Hoose | -Introduce a Circular Economy Bill  - We will seek to replace it with a new residential property tax that is related to actual value rather than outdated valuations. (also propose to hold a citizens assembly on taxation)  - Introduce a Human Rights (Scotland) Act to enshrine fundamental rights, including the right to a healthy and safe environment  - Require 30% of all publicly owned land to be used for rewilding  -international frequent flyer levy  - Raise the school starting age to seven and introduce a kindergarten stage for three to six year olds | - We will introduce a Circular Economy Law  - Our plans to replace the unfair council tax will explore if the new system can include a valuation process  - Incorporate four United Nations human rights treaties into Scots law  - Set a national target that 30 per cent of all publicly owned land should be used for rewilding,  - We will replace air passenger duty with a frequent flyer levy  - Play based education until age 7 to give our children a flying start, based on the Nordic model. | - introduce a circular economy Bill | - introducing a Circular Economy Bil  - We must abolish the council tax and replace it with a fairer alternative based on property values and ability to pay.  - We will fully incorporate human rights treaties into Scots Law  - We support the national roll out of Children’s Houses, based on the Barnahaus model, so that every child who is a victim or witness of crime has a safe place to access care, recovery, justice, and protection based on international best practice |
| - double the climate justice fund to £24 million over 4 years | - Amend the Marine Scotland Act to ban the movement of nuclear weapons through Scottish waters.    - End government support for businesses involved in the nuclear weapons supply chain.  - Issue prosecution guidance against the enforcement of charges against non-violent activists involved in protests against Faslane base and transport of nuclear weapons on Scottish roads.  - Seek observer status in the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.  - Campaign for the establishment of nuclear free zones in Europe and the Middle East.  - Contribute to global efforts to build peace and resolve conflict by committing to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and establish a Scottish Centre for Peace tasked with researching non-violent conflict resolution and hosting international summits, talks & negotiations |  |  | - We will ensure that the International Development Programme spending is climate proofed, including an increase in the Climate Justice Fund. |