

transform NETWORK BRIEFING

2026 election edition



Agenda

14:05	Welcome
14:10	2026 manifestos: What are the parties saying? – Transform
14:20	A joint active travel manifesto – Cycling Scotland
14:25	Q&A
14:45	Get your voice heard – SCVO
15:00	Q&A
15:20	Networking
16:00	(Optional) station tour

2026 SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS:

*What are the parties saying?
And how do we act on this?*





2024 manifestos

2024 manifestos

	 The Good	 The Bad
	• Rail improvements (but vague) • Zero Emission Buses • Traffic reduction (vague reference) • EVs (support uptake for low-incomes)	• Road-building and A9 • No air demand management • No freight reference
	• Improve rail capacity • Reintroduce 2030 EV mandate • EV infrastructure • £2 bus fare • Fix potholes	• Pro-motorist rhetoric incl. removing parking charges and opposing WPL/LEZ/20mph • Road-building and A9 • No air demand management; support domestic flights • No freight reference
	• 2030 EV mandate • Capped fares (but vague) • Rail improvements (but vague)	• Nothing on air demand management • Nothing on buses (beyond governance) • Commitment to A9 • Nothing on active travel • No freight reference
	• Anti-aviation policies (FFL, domestic bans, etc.) • Road user charging • Investment in public transport • Rail electrification	• Lack of bus policy (only free bus travel for asylum seekers & nationalisation) • Lack of active travel
	• Rail electrification • Reduce demand for flying (incl. ban short domestic flights, stop airport expansion) • Reintroduce 2030 EV mandate • EV infrastructure	• ‘Protect motorists’ rhetoric • Nothing detailed on buses • Nothing detailed on active travel
	• ‘Accelerate already-announced transport infrastructure’	• ‘War on Motorists’ incl. ban ULEZ, LTN • Scrap EV mandate • Scrap HS2

 The Good	 The Bad
• Rail investment & electrification • Zero-emission buses • Capped fares • (Some) anti-aviation policies	• Road-building commitments • Pro-car rhetoric • No freight • Weak or absent bus and active travel policies

"devolving fiscal powers i.e. road pricing"

"costings and case studies for proposed asks is helpful and will provide evidence"

fixing governance & 'cluttered landscape' in transport/making delivery more efficient

"really interested in transport, rural connectivity & how public transport can alleviate poverty"

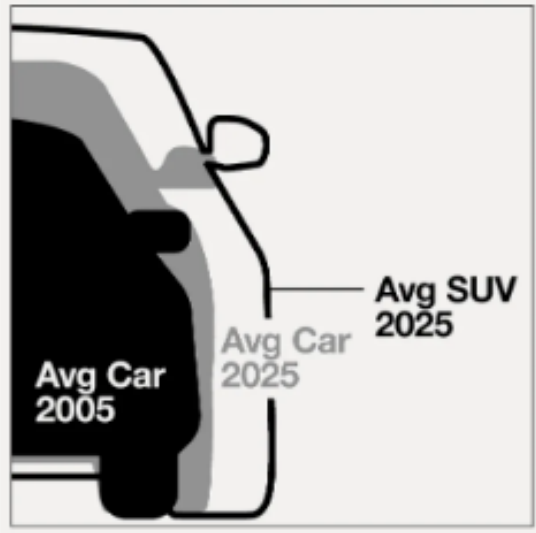
"revenue-raising options"

"transport policy will not be developed in a way that could be seen/positioned as anti-motorist"

"transport policy will be developed on an economic benefit-first basis – this will take priority over environment/Net Zero"

"bus is likely to be a key focus – better buses as greater tool for increasing opportunity, especially for those on lower incomes"

- 1** Policies to improve the **economy & tackle poverty**
— not climate-focussed
- 2** Measures to **raise money** welcome — but not if they're seen as 'anti-motorist'
- 3** **Costings, case studies,** and put a 'human face' on demands as far as possible



CARSPREADING IS TAKING OVER OUR CITIES

Cars are getting bigger — about **1cm wider every two years**. The thing is, our streets aren't.

More than half of new cars in the UK are **too wide for urban parking spaces**, leaving our cities crowded and congested.¹



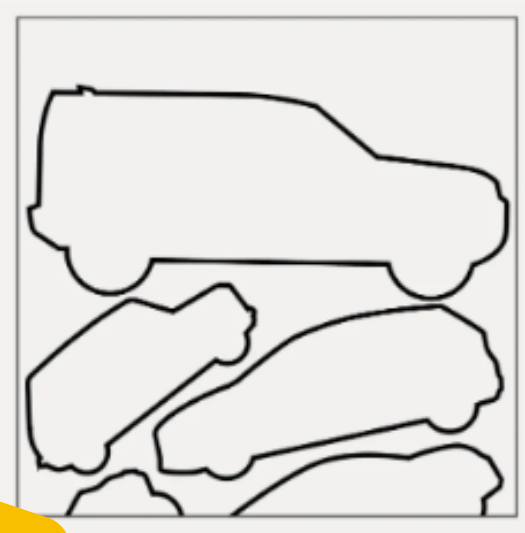
CARSPREADING IS PUTTING LIVES AT RISK

As cars get bigger, so do the risks. People hit by larger cars when walking or cycling are **far less likely to survive**.²



CARSPREADING IS DAMAGING OUR PLANET

Petrol and diesel SUVs burn around **20% more fuel**,³ and electric SUVs require more resources and critical battery minerals.

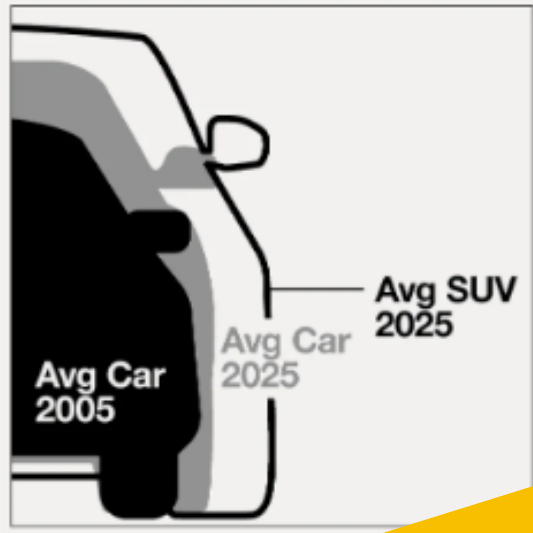


CARSPREADING IS A LUXURY

The majority of new cars in the UK are expensive SUVs.⁴ Carmakers should prioritise **practical and affordable cars** instead.



Climate



Public health

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Equalities



2026: party deadlines



Mid-October



December



August/September



Mid-November



Flexible

2026: party deadlines



Mid-October



December



August/September



Mid-November



Flexible



?



transform

Scotland's alliance for sustainable transport.

Joint Active Travel Manifesto for 2026

Mark McIntyre

Date 22/07/2025



- 1 **Investment:** Provide long-term investment to transform our local high streets and communities, committing at least 10% of the transport budget to active travel funding.
- 2 **Long-term commitment:** Multi-year budgets will accelerate delivery of national strategies on walking/wheeling and cycling, offer better value-for-money and give more people access regardless of income and background.
- 3 **Infrastructure:** Transform our communities, enabling anyone, especially younger people to travel safely on foot or by bike, including through well maintained, accessible networks of walking or cycling routes and reorganised street space, creating better, greener local places.
- 4 **Link active and public transport:** Integrate walking and cycling infrastructure with public transport in rural areas especially, to provide alternatives to the car, reduce congestion for all, and effortlessly link longer journeys together.
- 5 **Safety:** Reduce road danger by reducing traffic speeds in our communities, taking dangerous drivers off the road and by creating more accessible streets for all, implementing the pavement parking ban, reinforcing the new highway code and making welcoming spaces everyone can use and enjoy.

Joint Active Travel Manifesto for 2026



INVESTING IN SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

A JOINT ACTIVE TRAVEL MANIFESTO FOR 2026

Thriving places, healthier communities, and saving lives







Improving the places where we live, work, shop and play offers ready-made solutions to many of the most serious challenges Scotland faces today. From reducing transport-related emissions and tackling climate change to improving public health and supporting local economies, active travel is a key part of the answer.

For many, especially young people, families on lower incomes, and many disabled people, active travel can provide a lifeline, offering transport independence, access to important local services and a meaningful way to save money, helping tackle the scourge of child poverty. Increasing active travel benefits everyone with reduced traffic on people's streets, greater community connections and reduced air pollution and climate change emissions.

Increased investment in walking/wheeling and cycling infrastructure – supported by all major parties at the 2021 Holyrood election – is delivering positive change. Where new, well-connected cycle routes are being built, they are helping to improve lives and support ever more people to travel by cycle for everyday journeys, in greater safety and confidence. As the climate changes around us and road fatalities have risen, it is vital that we keep delivering more opportunities to walk, wheel or cycle everywhere in Scotland.

To achieve this end, we call on all parties in the next Holyrood election to support these five commitments:

- 1 **Investment:** Provide long-term investment to transform our local high streets and communities, committing at least 10% of the transport budget to active travel funding.
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Any questions?



Sheghley Ogilvie

Getting Your Voice Heard

July 2025

About SCVO

Our mission is to support, promote and develop a confident, sustainable voluntary sector in Scotland

scvo.scot

SCVO

Membership

Gathering

Charity Awards

Funding Scotland

Goodmoves

TFN

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Services

Funding

Policy & research

Supporting Scotland's vibrant voluntary sector





SCOTTISH CHARITY AWARDS 2023



SCVO's Strategy 2023-28



SCVO the Gathering 2023
7 & 8 November | EICC, Edinburgh



#EssentialSector
Learn more and get involved



Growing Climate Confidence



#RunningCostsCrisis

Setting up a charity

Running your organisation

Digital

Training

HR Service

Managed IT

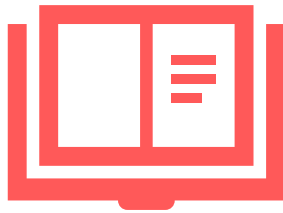
Payroll

Workspace

Credit Union

Contact us

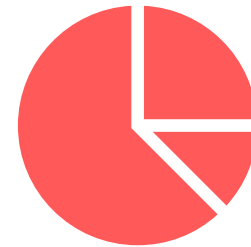
SCVO policy areas



Better
regulation



Fair Funding &
procurement



Transforming
the economy

What we do



Policy
development



Engage
policy-makers



Work with
stakeholders



Champion
the sector in
the media



Campaign for
the sector

Scotland's Voluntary Sector



There are over 46,500 voluntary organisations active in Scotland



88% of voluntary organisations are local



34% of organisations are in rural or remote areas



In 2023 the voluntary sector in Scotland had a turnover of £9.7bn



In 2023 voluntary sector spend was £9.3bn



The sector looks after Assets worth over £39bn



830,000+ people volunteered with organisations in 2023



Scotland's voluntary sector employs 136,000+ paid staff



Women make up 64.5% of the sector's workforce

SCVO 2024

Financial sustainability

In Jan/Feb 2025 Scotland's Third Sector Tracker Found:

- 81% of organisations reported financial-related challenges, an increase of 10% since spring 2023.
- 37% of organisations reported operating with a budget deficit.
- 56% consider reserves essential to their short-to-medium-term survival.
- 54% said their current use of reserves is unsustainable (↑14% since Autumn 2024).
- 1/3 had none of their funding for 2024/25 confirmed by Jan/Feb 2025.

Fire fighting

In Jan/Feb 2025

- 11% stopped delivering one or more strands of work.
- 11% made redundancies.
- 20% cancelled or postponed staff recruitment.
- Volunteer shortages one of top 3 challenges.

Engaging with political party researchers

- Utilise the Business Bulletin.
- Share briefings with political party research teams, not just MSPs.
- Share briefings with SPICE.
- Build relationships with civil servants, Committee staff, and where necessary, SPaDs.

What makes a good briefing?

- 2 sides of A4.
- A summary box.
- PDF or Word document.
- Include case studies, particularly local case studies.
- Historical context.
- Debate title as the subject of the email.
- Clear branding and clear contact information.
- Minimum of 24 hours before a debate or meeting.

Discussion

- Turn to the person on your left
- Have either of you engaged with the party researchers?
- Have you engaged with any of the other key contacts mentioned?

Engaging with political party manifesto processes

- Get the details of the manifesto leads for each party.
- Reach out to contacts to understand their timelines.
- Develop key messages and solutions.
- Ensure you share key messages in advance of key dates.
- Build alliances with others with similar messaging.
- You don't need to produce a manifesto!

Manifesto tips

- Summary of your asks.
- Timescales for delivery (what can be achieved in the first six, months, year, five years).
- Evidence (statistics and case-studies).
- Cost.
- Outcomes, what will the policy achieve.

Manifesto timelines

Party	Timeline	Key contact
Scottish Green Party	• Drafting in June. • Completed by end of summer.	Lorna Slater MSP
Scottish Labour Party	• 3 Stage process. Stage 2 closed 28 June. • Shadow Cabinet Ministers feeding in on a range of issues in September. • Report will be published in Autum. • Manifesto will follow.	Rosanna Dobbin, Head of Policy at Scottish Labour
Scottish National Party	• Submissions and meeting requests throughout 2025. • Drafting after SNP party conference. • Manifesto and themed mini manifestos.	Shannon Donnelly, SNP Manifesto Lead. Shannon.Donnelly@snp.org
Scottish Conservatives	• Submissions and meeting requests throughout 2025.	Charlie Pound, Head of Policy and Research. Charles.pound@parliament.scot

Discussion

- Turn to the person on your right
- Do you plan to engage with party manifesto processes?

How can SCVO support you?

- Join SCVO's Policy Network.
- Make connections with Third Force News.
- Broad policy work, such as Fair Funding.
- Take part in upcoming research about policy support for the sector.

OUR RESEARCH

- **Scottish Third Sector Tracker:** running since 2021, the Tracker provides useful data, with its latest (9th) wave being published earlier this year.
- **In-house research:** SCVO's Research Team collects key stats on the size and shape of the voluntary sector, leads on the Scottish Third Sector Tracker & undertakes bespoke research projects & data collection.
- **Find out more:** <https://scvo.scot/research>

Contact: sheghley.ogilvie@scvo.scot

Useful links

- **[Fair Funding in Scotland - SCVO](#)**
- **[Shifting Sands – SCVO](#)**
- **[Policy Network](#)**

Any questions?



Thank you

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transform

Scotland's alliance for sustainable transport.