

culturecounts

The campaign to highlight the value of culture in Scotland

Party manifesto commitments for culture in the 2017 UK Parliament elections



Scottish Conservatives

Promoting British culture around the world

The United Kingdom is home to some of the finest cultural institutions in the world. We will continue to promote those institutions and ensure they have the resources they need to amplify Britain's voice on the world stage and as a global force for good. We will continue to promote democracy, the rule of law, property entitlements, a free and open media, and accountable institutions in countries and societies across the world.

We will place the BBC World Service and the British Council on a secure footing so they are able to promote the best of British values around the globe and build strong ties between our local communities and other countries.

Prosperous towns and cities across Scotland

Our towns and cities excel when they have vibrant cultural life. The UK's arts and culture are world-beating and are at the heart of the regeneration of much of modern Britain. We will continue our strong support for the arts, and ensure more of that support is based outside London. We will support a UK city in making a bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games. And in this 70th Anniversary Year of the Edinburgh Festival we will support the development of the new Edinburgh Concert Hall, reaffirming Edinburgh as the UK's leading festival city and a cultural beacon around the globe.

The best place for digital business

Britain's future prosperity will be built on our technical capability and creative flair... We will help digital businesses to scale up and grow, with an ambition for many more to list here in the UK, and open new offices of the British Business Bank in Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester and Newport, specialising in the local sector.

We will ensure there is a sustainable business model for high-quality media online, to create a level playing field for our media and creative industries. We will help provide the skills and digital infrastructure that creative companies need and will seek to build upon the favourable tax arrangements that have helped them, including the highly successful creative industries tax credits scheme. We will ensure there is a robust system for protection of intellectual property when the UK has left the EU, with strong protections against infringement

The full Scottish Conservatives manifesto is available [here](#).



Scottish Labour

Culture for All

Britain's creative industries are the envy of the world, a source of national pride, a driver of inward investment and tourism, and a symbol of the kind of country we are now and aspire to be in the future. As Britain leaves the EU we will put our world-class creative sector at the heart of our negotiations and future industrial strategy. We need to do more to open the arts and creative industries to everyone.

Labour will introduce a £1 billion Cultural Capital Fund to upgrade our existing cultural and creative infrastructure to be ready for the digital age and invest in creative clusters across the country, based on a similar model to enterprise zones.

The fund will be available over a five-year period, administered by the Arts Council in England. It will be among the biggest arts infrastructure funds ever, transforming the country's cultural landscape.

And as with all our public funding investment, Scotland will also benefit from increased spending. The Scottish government will be able to choose to follow Labour's lead and invest this money in the creative industries to support Scotland's vibrant cultural sector, from the games industry to fashion, to museums and galleries, and the world renowned Edinburgh International Festival, created by a Labour government 70 years ago to help restore unity in post-war Europe.

Similarly, the arts pupil premium we will introduce for every primary school in England – a £160 million a year boost for schools – will mean more money for the Scottish government to invest in arts education.

We will continue to mark the ongoing centenary of the First World War, and the sacrifice of all those who died. Labour remains committed to honouring the role of all who have served our country.

Being a performer is a great career, but too often the culture of low or no pay means it is hard for those without well-off families to support them to break into this industry. We will work with trade unions and employers to agree sector specific advice and guidelines on pay and employment standards that will make the sector more accessible to all.

Scottish Labour would create a First Minister's Committee on the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries, with membership from all sectors and regions.

We will improve diversity on and off screen, working with the film industry and public service and commercial broadcasters to find rapid solutions to improve diversity.

We recognise the serious concern about the "value gap" between producers of creative content and the digital services that profit from its use, and will work with all sides to review the way creators and artists are rewarded for their work in the digital age...

The BBC is a national asset of which we should all be proud. Labour will always support it and uphold its independence. We will ensure the BBC and public service broadcasting has a healthy future. Labour is committed to keeping Channel 4 in public ownership.

The BBC is also a significant provider of jobs and opportunities for the creative industries in Scotland. That is why Scottish Labour wants more investment in BBC Scotland from within the licence fee settlement and greater commissioning responsibility for the nations and regions

The full Scottish Labour manifesto is available [here](#).



Scottish Liberal Democrats

Access to culture and sport

Arts, media and sports are essential for personal fulfilment and quality of life, they are part of what turns a group of people into a community. Funding for these organisations is put at risk with Brexit, and the Liberal Democrats will ensure that we continue to invest in our cultural capital.

We will:

- Protect the independence of the BBC and set up a BBC Licence Fee Commission, and maintain Channel 4 in public ownership.
- Protect sports and arts funding via the National Lottery.
- Maintain current standards of Intellectual Property (IP) protection with continuing cooperation on enforcement of IP generated in the UK and working within the EU to ensure the continuation of territorial licensing of rights
- Create creative enterprise zones to grow and regenerate the cultural output of areas across the UK.

British business and jobs:

We must protect support to domestic industries such as farming, tourism and the creative industries, as well as regional support for deprived areas.

Innovation science and new technology

Commit to build digital skills in the UK. Support growth in the creative industries, including video gaming, by continuing to support the Creative Industries Council and tailored industry-specific support, promoting creative skills, supporting modern and flexible patent, copyright and licensing rules, and addressing the barriers to finance faced by small creative businesses.

The full Scottish Liberal Democrats manifesto is available [here](#).



Scottish Greens

There is no specific mention of culture, arts or creativity in the manifesto which is available [here](#). For culture commitments in the Scottish Parliament elections in 2016, please click [here](#).

Our thriving creative sector has a reputation for excellence: from the many artists based here, to our Festivals, our National Performing Companies and National Collections, our rich built heritage and our world-leading digital technologies. We value the many, vibrant, contributions they make to Scotland and to our international reputation. Here's how SNP MPs will be strong voices for Scotland's creative sector at Westminster.

Protecting our place in the European Single Market

- Scotland's creative industries benefit from being part of the European Single Market. If the SNP wins the election, it will give us a mandate to demand a place for Scotland at the Brexit negotiating table and the inclusion of the case for our place in the Single Market in the UK's negotiating remit.
- SNP MPs will continue to call on the UK government to guarantee the right of EU nationals to stay in Scotland, ensuring that our cultural sector, society and economy can continue to benefit from their talent and creativity.

An immigration policy that works for Scotland

- We support the devolution of immigration powers to the Scottish Parliament, so that we can develop an immigration policy suited to our specific circumstances and needs, including those of the creative sector.
- The Post-Study Work Visa is a vital tool to help attract and retain young talent. The UK government's decision to scrap the scheme, and then run a pilot which does not include a single Scottish university, is unacceptable. SNP MPs will call for the full reinstatement of the Post-Study Work Visa scheme.
- SNP MPs will support the scrapping of the Immigration Skills Charge that is harmful to the growth of our cultural and creative industries and will create skills gaps. And we support a review of the Shortage Occupation List to ensure it recognises the specific skills needs of the Scottish economy and our flourishing creative industries.

Protecting vital funding, partnerships and reliefs

- SNP MPs will continue to demand clarity and certainty over existing EU funding and will fight any and all attempts to grab Scotland's funding for Westminster. Culture, historic environment and creative industries benefit greatly from EU partnership and funding programmes such as European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 and Creative Europe.
- We welcomed the assurance of the UK's participation in the European Capital of Culture 2023 but we will seek a commitment that it will continue to engage in this initiative, and others, in future years post-Brexit.
- We continue to support tax relief for culture and creative industries including the games sector, high-end and children's TV production, animation, film, theatre and orchestras.
- The SNP Scottish Government has consistently called for the UK government to consider reductions to VAT levied on repair, maintenance and conservation work to historic buildings. We will continue to make the case for a review of VAT charged for this work.

Championing public service broadcasting and a thriving press

- We believe that responsibility for broadcasting in Scotland should be devolved to the Scottish Parliament and that greater authority and funding should be moved from the BBC network to BBC Scotland. In the meantime we welcome the creation of a new BBC Scotland TV channel and its associated investment.
- We will continue to push for a fairer share of the TV licence fee raised in Scotland being spent in Scotland.
- We welcome the proposals for the relocation of Channel 4 outwith London, and SNP MPs will make a strong case for as many functions of the Channel 4 operation as possible to be based in Scotland, continuing to lead the case against any plans to privatise.

- We will make the case for the Scottish Parliament to have the power to decide which sporting events in Scotland are included in the list of those that are free to view in Scotland.
- We will demand that the UK government reinstates its funding for Gaelic broadcasting.
- As the UK government consults on proposals to reduce the requirement for local content on radio, SNP MPs will seek to protect local news and other content provided by local commercial radio stations, recognising the valuable contribution they make to informing and entertaining listeners.

- We remain committed to a vibrant, free press and we will work with other parties, in Scotland and at Westminster, to ensure it is supported.

Securing opportunities for the future

- The UK government has published a draft Industrial Strategy, in government and at Westminster, we will work with partners to deliver a strategy that takes account of Scotland's economic challenges and recognises the needs of Scotland's creative sector.

- The Tory plan to leave the European Single Market has the potential to greatly harm our creative industries' ability to operate and be successful. As new trading relationships are formed, we will work to ensure that the interests of Scotland's vital industries, including the creative sector, are represented. This will include backing policies which ensure copyright and IP protections support our industries.

- The SNP Scottish Government has made representations to both the European Commission and the UK government on the Digital Single Market proposals. Whilst proposals present many great opportunities, there are complexities which require further discussion. As negotiations continue, we will continue to press the UK government for representations to be made, to ensure our interests are represented.

The above text is from the SNP Manifesto for culture and creativity which is online [here](#). The full SNP manifesto is available [here](#).



UKIP

There is so specific UKIP manifesto for Scotland. Their UK manifesto states

Nurturing seaside businesses

Within our coastal enterprise zones, businesses operating from premises with a rateable value of less than £50,000 will receive a 50 per cent cut in business rates. Coastal towns will have top ranking when it comes to national successor funds to the European Regional Development Fund. Our new coastal towns taskforce will raise funding for new arts and heritage facilities in coastal towns.

The full UKIP manifesto is available [here](#).