



# General Election 2024: Party Manifesto comparison

## June 2024

On 22 May, The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called a Snap Election for Thursday 4 July. Over the past week most parties have released their manifestos. This briefing summarises the proposals most relevant to housing associations as well as identifying where policies have the potential to make a real difference to social housing tenants living in Wales.

### Key headlines and analysis

- Most parties have commitments to increase spending in Wales. The conservative manifesto promises to expand the levelling up programme and the labour party has guaranteed to address concerns with the block funding grant. It is important that the next government delivers on these commitments and ensures that Wales is fairly funded and has sufficient resources to tackle the challenges faced at present including a severe homelessness and housing crisis.
- In terms of Welfare, the conservative manifesto reinforces their ambition to cut costs and control the number of working age people relying on benefits. Labour's manifesto does not mention welfare reforms specifically however, throughout their campaigning labour has expressed a commitment to review the welfare system. They have expressed that they have no intention to remove the two-child benefit cap. Our recommendations to the next UK government are explicit that we must review universal credit to make sure it works for tenants and for landlords and consider mechanisms that restrict household income such as the benefit cap.
- While the housing policies outlined in these party manifesto's will mostly not directly relate to Wales it is important that we maintain social housing as a priority across the whole of the UK. In their manifestos all the political parties have recognised the importance of delivering more, high quality homes and most have recognised the ongoing housing crisis. For a full comparison of the manifestos please refer to the appendices.



## Next Steps

CHC is raising the profile of the role that the UK Government can make in how people live well in their homes in Wales, with a particular focus on welfare and energy policy. We are calling for, and will continue to influence UK government to achieve:

- A holistic approach to welfare support that prevents homelessness and supports access to the rental market.
- Reform of Universal Credit to ensure that claimants can pay for basic essentials as a minimum and improvements to the system for both claimants and housing associations.
- An energy system that protects low-income households
- Funding incentives and government commitment to support the sector to achieve its net-zero goals

A briefing outlining our election calls in full can be found here. We will also shortly publish a cost of living report which provides important evidence to support our priorities.

We are already engaging with Homes For All Cymru and our sister federations to use our collective voice to amplify these calls.

For more information or to discuss this briefing, please contact [bethany-howells@chcymru.org.uk](mailto:bethany-howells@chcymru.org.uk) or [bethan-proctor@chcymru.org.uk](mailto:bethan-proctor@chcymru.org.uk)

## Appendices

Wales specific policies and further devolution					
Conservatives	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Liberal Democrats	Reform	Green
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Welsh government to expand the levelling up programme.</li> <li>• A commitment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider further devolution specifically around youth justice and probation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand a fair funding system for Wales and recover the £4m owed to Wales from HS2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain the barnett formula but ensure that funding for Wales is fair and at a level which supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform planning with a specific focus on coastal areas in Wales.</li> <li>• Invest in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wales to have the same devolved powers as Scotland in advance of a new</li> </ul>



<p>to electrify the North Wales Main Line and reverse the 20mph speed limit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pledge to strengthen Welsh public services by placing an additional police officer in every Welsh community and improving the interoperability between the NHS in different parts of the UK.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address concerns over how the system allocates block grants to Wales.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the level of devolution specifically around taxation laws and welfare.</li> </ul>	<p>Wales to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the level of devolution in Wales specifically in Rail and Justice.</li> </ul>	<p>infrastructure in Wales.</p>	<p>constitutional settlement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Senedd if it decides to hold an independence referendum.</li> <li>• Increase spending in Wales on devolved functions.</li> </ul>
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Housing					
Conservatives	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Liberal Democrats	Reform	Green



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1.6 million more good homes while protecting our countryside.</li><li>• A suite of support for home owners including; stamp duty relief for first time buyers, 5% deposits etc.</li><li>• Legislating to evict social housing tenants who disrupt their neighbours as part of their wider plans to tackle anti-social behaviour.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A focus on reducing planning barriers and delivering 1.5m homes within five years.</li><li>• A commitment to scrapping Section 21 'no fault' evictions on 'day one' of a new government</li><li>• A commitment to deliver the most social homes in a generation by making changes to planning to ensure affordable homes are being built as part of every development, making changes to the Affordable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce a Right to Adequate Housing (Wales) Bill in the Senedd, which would include powers to introduce rent controls and other market interventions to "make housing more affordable".</li><li>• Planning reforms to make it easier to build social housing.</li><li>• Scaling the Housing First model in order to tackle homelessness.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 380,000 new homes including 150,000 social homes across the UK.</li><li>• Make three year tenancies the default and prohibit no fault evictions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Their manifesto refers specifically to a housing crisis.</li><li>• They commit to reform social housing law to make changes to the allocation system that 'prioritise local people'.</li><li>• Review the planning system.</li><li>• Abolish the Renters' reform Bill.</li><li>• Incentives the use of new technology in house building.</li><li>• Scrap section 24 for landlords to encourage smaller landlords into rental markets.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A commitment to provide 'fairer, greener homes for all'</li><li>• A pledge to provide 150,000 new social homes a year and to end 'right to buy'.</li><li>• Legislating to end no fault evictions</li><li>• Transform planning.</li></ul>
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	<p>Homes Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritisation of building of new social rented homes and review of the increased right to buy discounts introduced in 2012 and increasing protections on newly-built social housing.</li> <li>• Develop a new homelessness strategy</li> </ul>				
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Welfare					
Conservatives	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Liberal Democrats	Reform	Green
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform disability benefits to be more targeted, including</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welfare reforms are not explicitly mentioned in the labour manifesto.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing child benefit by £20 per week to lift 60,000 Welsh children out of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing the two-child limit and the benefit cap to tackle child poverty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A focus on 'making work pay' with a commitment to lift the income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abolish the two-child benefit cap.</li> <li>• Increase Universal Credit</li> </ul>



<p>provisions for mental health benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore treatment services instead of cash payments for mental health benefits.</li> <li>• Introduce sanctions for people who refuse to take up suitable jobs after 12 months of benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>However, previously Labour have pledged to review mechanisms that restrict household income like the 'bedroom tax'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The labour manifesto does not promise to abolish the two child limit,</li> </ul>	<p>poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Welsh Benefits system and devolve benefits most closely aligned to existing devolved policy areas. Support a universal basic income pilot in Wales.</li> </ul>		<p>tax threshold to £20,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a two-strike rule for job seekers.</li> <li>• Mandate face to face appointments for benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>and legacy benefits by £40 a week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Carer's Allowance by at least 10% a month.</li> <li>• Introduction of a Universal Basic Income.</li> <li>• Uplift disability benefits by 5%</li> <li>• Oppose plans to replace PIP with 'vouchers'.</li> </ul>
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Social Care					
Conservatives	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Liberal Democrats	Reform	Green
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing a cap to social care costs from October 2025.</li> <li>• A multi-year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fair pay agreement for social care workers and a commitment to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued work to progress the ambition of a National Care Service in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A commitment for 'better pay' for care workers and better support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a national strategy for social care that is sustainable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free personal care for old age and disabled people</li> <li>• Increased pay</li> </ul>



funding settlement to support social care reforms.	work towards a National Care Service to help people live independently at home for longer.	Wales.	for unpaid carers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A pledge to work with our parties to make a plan for a better social care system.</li></ul>	through simplifying funding streams.	rates and career structure for carers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investment of £20bn a year.</li></ul>
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## Further Reading

### Manifestos

- [Conservative](#)
- [Labour](#)
- [Plaid Cymru](#)
- [Liberal Democrats](#)
- [Reform](#)
- [Green Party](#)