Public Interest Party – General Election Manifesto

Foreword

Our political system is broken. Corporate interests have captured policymaking, public services are in decline, and the challenges of our era – climate, inequality, and misinformation – go unanswered. The Public Interest Party was formed to change that. We stand for transparency, dignity, human rights, and a future where people and planet come before profit.

1. Economy & Jobs

- Green Jobs Guarantee to ensure full employment in climate sectors
- Sector-specific task forces to support fair green transitions
- "Buy Local First" policy for public procurement
- Business tax reform to close loopholes and support small enterprise
- Expanded support and protection for small businesses over corporate chains

2. Public Ownership & Infrastructure

- Renationalise water, energy, rail, and public transport
- End profiteering in essential services
- Introduce public control boards with citizen oversight
- Emphasise ICSID's obstructive role and push for UK transparency in legal entanglements
- Focus on clean, healthy canals and waterways; tackle pollution by water companies

3. Housing

- Recognise housing as a human right
- Launch zero-carbon public housing programme (100,000+ homes/year)
- Integrate renewable energy systems with grid sell-back model
- End right-to-buy discounts and speculative development
- Establish land reform task force
- Lifetime-standard accessibility in all new builds

4. Climate Action & Environmental Restoration

- Legally binding Net Zero 2035 strategy
- Ban new oil and gas licences
- Expand rewilding, tree planting, marine protection
- Adjust modern fishing practices for sustainability
- Support sustainable farming with public payments for ecosystem stewardship

5. Education

- Modern curriculum reform task force
- Introduce lessons in digital ethics, health, media literacy, and civic education
- Expand arts, vocational, and neurodiverse learning support
- Universal free school meals with nutrition education

6. Health & Social Care

- Establish a National Care Service, free at point of use
- Commit to NHS funding, staffing, and reform
- Independent NHS spending review to identify waste and reinvest resources
- Invest in preventive health: diet, lifestyle, and food regulation
- Introduce taxes on harmful food products and tobacco-style labelling
- Limit free social care for high earners to maintain sustainability

7. Media & Information

- Legislate against corporate misinformation with escalating fines and license sanctions
- Fund public-interest journalism via misinformation penalties
- Improve public media literacy through national education programmes
- Raise awareness of corporate propaganda and disinformation tactics

8. Democracy & Political Reform

- Modernise the UK political system beyond its Victorian structure
- Establish a Citizens' House as an advisory, deliberative body
- Introduce rapid-response task forces for policy innovation
- Amend the Freedom of Information Act to ensure taxpayer transparency
- Promote collaboration over contest between political parties

9. Transport

- Fully integrate bus and rail under public ownership
- Expand clean, accessible public transit options nationwide
- Phase out diesel buses and invest in rural connectivity

10. Justice, Rights & Public Safety

- Reform policing with independent oversight and restorative justice
- Launch community-based crisis response units
- Invest in rebuilding public trust through transparency
- Strengthen the Human Rights Act and challenge ICSID's influence in UK law
- Include human rights safeguards in all legal/investment mechanisms

11. Immigration & Border Policy

- End the hostile environment
- Restore legal asylum routes and community sponsorship
- Crack down on smugglers while upholding rights
- Launch Climate Displacement Task Force to prepare for global migration trends
- Acknowledge future challenges with sustainability and plan humanely

12. International Development

- End outsourcing aid to private contractors
- Deliver aid directly to governments and civil society
- Focus on resilience, climate adaptation, and rights

13. Tax & Revenue Reform

- Clamp down on tax evasion and close corporate loopholes
- Introduce a Financial Transactions Tax
- Levy windfall taxes on oil and arms profits
- Implement Food & Public Health Responsibility Levy
- Raise taxes on ultra-wealthy while protecting working and middle classes

14. Arts, Culture & Community

- Increase public arts funding

- Protect community spaces, libraries, and venues
- Ensure access to the arts regardless of background

15. Defence & Global Security

- Reinforce NATO cooperation as cornerstone of national defence
- Independent review of Trident to assess strategic value and cost
- Scale back arms profiteering and prioritise ethical defence procurement
- Invest in cyber defence, peacekeeping, and veteran care

16. Social Care & Disability Rights

- Fully fund support for disabled people and neurodivergent individuals
- Invest in accessible infrastructure and inclusive education
- Recognise unpaid carers as essential to the care system

17. Children & Digital Safety

- Introduce social media age restriction and online safety measures
- Establish digital health and wellbeing standards for tech platforms

Appendix I – Budget & Funding Summary

See attached revenue stream report, including ethical borrowing, windfall taxes, and redirected subsidies.

Appendix II – Revenue Stream Report

Diversified sources include closing corporate loopholes, financial transaction tax, green bonds, food taxes, energy profits, arms windfall tax, NHS spending realignment, and media fines.

For supporting position papers, costing documents, and expanded policy details, see supplementary materials.

1. Policy Draft Sheets

1.1 Zero-Carbon Housing Programme

Purpose:

To tackle the housing crisis while reducing emissions and lowering household energy costs.

Core Features:

Build over 100,000 new public homes each year to zero-carbon standards.

Homes will meet lifetime accessibility standards and be located in mixed-income, sustainable communities.

All homes will integrate solar and renewable heating with sell-back-to-grid capability.

Publicly owned and maintained with democratic oversight.

Planning and land reform included to prioritise public interest over speculation.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Years 1–2): Planning reform, public land audit, and procurement of sustainable materials.

Phase 2 (Years 3–5): Launch of regional housing delivery authorities and first 300,000 homes.

Phase 3 (Years 6+): Full-scale rollout, retrofitting existing stock, and reinvestment from energy income.

Expected Outcomes:

Reduces housing waitlists by over 30% in 5 years.

Lowers household energy bills.

Creates 150,000+ green construction jobs.

Cuts building sector emissions dramatically.

Budget Impact:

Funded through redirected housing subsidies, energy income, ethical borrowing, and windfall taxes.

1.2 Green Jobs Guarantee

Purpose:

To ensure a just transition to a green economy by providing guaranteed employment in climate-resilient sectors.

Core Features:

Launch a national public employment programme focused on renewable energy, conservation, insulation, and sustainable agriculture.

Guarantee training and living-wage employment for anyone out of work who wants to contribute to the green transition.

Partner with local authorities and cooperatives to deliver regionally tailored projects.

Include support for re-skilling oil and gas workers and workers in declining industries.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Establish Green Employment Authority and initiate pilot projects in regions with high unemployment.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Expand projects nationally with targeted recruitment and training schemes.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Integrate green employment guarantees with educational pathways and local regeneration plans.

Expected Outcomes:

Eliminates involuntary unemployment in targeted sectors.

Accelerates climate targets through practical delivery.

Stimulates regional economies and reduces inequality.

Builds long-term resilience against economic shocks.

Budget Impact:

Funded through redirected subsidies, green bonds, and long-term savings from reduced unemployment-related costs.

1.3 National Care Service

Purpose:

To provide high-quality, publicly funded social care as a universal right, not a postcode lottery.

Core Features:

Establish a nationally coordinated but locally delivered public care system, free at the point of need.

Professionalise the care workforce with proper pay, training, and rights.

Integrate social care with the NHS and housing to support ageing in place.

Invest in preventative community services and disability inclusion.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Establish governance structures and begin recruitment and training.

Phase 2 (Years 2–4): Transition from private contracts to local authority and nonprofit provision.

Phase 3 (Year 5+): Expand capacity, integrate with healthcare and housing, and assess outcomes.

Expected Outcomes:

Guarantees access to care regardless of income or geography.

Reduces strain on NHS by providing early support.

Improves pay and working conditions for over 1 million workers.

Boosts equality for disabled and elderly populations.

Budget Impact:

Funded through wealth taxation, progressive contributions, and reduced NHS crisis spending.

1.4 Safe Borders, Humane Society Act

Purpose:

To restore dignity to the UK's immigration system while strengthening security and preparedness for future displacement.

Core Features:

Replace hostile environment laws with a fair, transparent immigration framework.

Restore safe and legal asylum routes, including humanitarian visas and family reunification.

Close unsafe detention centres and prohibit offshore processing.

Crack down on criminal smuggling networks while speeding up fair asylum decisions.

Establish a task force to prepare for climate displacement and population pressures.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Repeal hostile legislation and restore safe routes.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Reform Home Office structures and launch integration schemes.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Expand resettlement and displacement preparedness systems.

Expected Outcomes:

Reduces dangerous crossings and smuggling.

Improves compliance and fairness in immigration processing.

Prepares for future global migration responsibly.

Builds public confidence through transparency and humane outcomes.

Budget Impact:

Funded through existing Home Office budget redirected from detention and enforcement, plus international cooperation grants.

1.5 Public Ownership Transition Plan

Purpose:

To return key sectors (energy, water, transport, and infrastructure) to democratic public ownership, ensuring that essential services operate in the public interest, not for shareholder profit.

Core Features:

Re-nationalise water and energy utilities to guarantee environmental standards and affordability.

Rebuild public ownership of rail and bus networks to improve reliability, accessibility, and integration.

Establish new public infrastructure authorities to manage major projects transparently.

Phase out private contracts where public delivery proves more effective and ethical.

Increase democratic accountability with local and worker representation on oversight boards.

Ensure all transitions are legally safeguarded against ICSID interference and prioritise environmental recovery.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Begin buy-back negotiations or legal transitions for water and energy companies. Conduct public audits.

Phase 2 (Years 2–4): Create regional public service agencies and restore in-house public sector delivery capacity.

Phase 3 (Years 5–6): Fully integrate services, reinvest surplus into public infrastructure, and embed democratic oversight.

Expected Outcomes:

Restores public trust in essential services.

Increases transparency and ends profit-driven environmental damage.

Strengthens infrastructure for climate resilience.

Saves public money in the long term by reducing shareholder payouts.

Budget Impact:

Funded through phased transitions, bonds, recovered profits, and strategic use of existing subsidies. Legal contingency funds set aside for ICSID-related challenges.

1.6 Education Reform Task Force

Purpose:

To ensure the education system prepares students for the real world by reforming the curriculum, promoting inclusivity, and building skills relevant to the modern economy and society.

Core Features:

Launch a national Education Reform Task Force to review the full curriculum with input from educators, students, employers, and mental health experts.

Introduce new subjects (e.g. media literacy, climate science, digital ethics, financial life skills).

Improve support for neurodiverse students and those with learning disabilities.

Guarantee access to outdoor learning, arts, and physical education.

Increase teacher pay and support to restore morale and recruitment.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Convene the Task Force and begin consultations; pilot new subjects in selected schools.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Develop and publish reformed national curriculum; increase recruitment of SEND and inclusion specialists.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Full rollout of modern curriculum alongside increased support funding.

Expected Outcomes:

Students better prepared for digital, civic, and working life.

Reduced educational inequality.

Improved mental health and social outcomes through inclusive learning.

Renewed trust and pride in the UK education system.

Budget Impact:

Funded by ringfencing a share of existing education spending, reducing private consultancy waste, and additional funds from progressive taxation.

1.7 Restorative Justice & Police Reform

Purpose:

To rebuild public trust in law enforcement by restructuring police services, investing in prevention, and expanding community justice.

Core Features:

Create a new national framework for restorative justice programmes in all communities.

Audit all police budgets to identify misuse and reinvest funds in early intervention.

Establish independent oversight bodies with real powers of investigation and accountability.

Expand recruitment and training focused on de-escalation, mental health, and anti-racism.

Offer local authorities the option to trial community-led policing models.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Launch a national review and independent audit of police spending and public trust.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Implement restorative justice pilot programmes; restructure police training.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Embed reforms nationwide and reinvest recovered spending into community safety services.

Expected Outcomes:

Reduced reoffending and better victim satisfaction.

More efficient use of policing budgets.

Stronger local accountability and transparency.

Safer, fairer communities.

Budget Impact:

No net cost increase; long-term savings from reduced incarceration, crime prevention, and spending reform.

1.8 Food & Public Health Responsibility Levy

Purpose:

To reduce diet-related illness and NHS pressure by discouraging the use of harmful ingredients, raising awareness, and funding preventative health initiatives.

Core Features:

Introduce a tiered levy on manufacturers using high levels of sugar, ultra-processed additives, and harmful fats.

Require tobacco-style health warnings on processed food packaging.

Fund nutritional education, lifestyle research, and public health messaging with levy revenue.

Create a public health watchdog to monitor corporate practices and enforce transparency.

Support local, healthy food producers and school-based nutrition education.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Establish levy framework and health standards. Begin packaging reform consultation.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Enforce product labelling and begin phased implementation of levies. Launch national health education campaign.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Evaluate health outcomes and expand community-level nutrition and wellness programmes.

Expected Outcomes:

Reduced rates of obesity, diabetes, and diet-related illness.

Increased food literacy and long-term NHS savings.

More ethical corporate food practices.

Raised funds for health, education, and food access schemes.

Budget Impact:

Levy expected to raise £3–5 billion/year. Entirely self-funding, with long-term savings across NHS and welfare budgets.

1.9 Disinformation & Media Responsibility Act

Purpose:

To combat the spread of false or misleading information, protect democratic integrity, and support high-quality public-interest journalism.

Core Features:

Establish a tiered penalty system for media outlets and online platforms that consistently spread misinformation.

Fines increase with repeat offences; extreme cases risk license suspension or content bans.

Revenue reinvested into public-interest journalism and media literacy education.

Create an independent oversight body to enforce penalties, separate from government influence.

Launch a public campaign to teach people how to identify propaganda and manipulative media.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Define disinformation criteria, create oversight body, and pass enabling legislation.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Begin enforcement with warnings and pilot fines. Start reinvestment in local journalism and media literacy programmes.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Embed public education into school and adult learning systems. Publish annual transparency reports.

Expected Outcomes:

Reduced public confusion and polarisation.

Better-informed electorate and stronger democracy.

Support for local media ecosystems.

Increased accountability of media outlets and online platforms.

Budget Impact:

Generates revenue through fines; reinvestment is ring-fenced and supports democratic resilience. Setup cost offset by media regulatory reform.

1.10 NATO & Modern Defence Strategy

Purpose:

To reaffirm the UK's security through international cooperation and military responsibility, while ending overspending on corporate-driven defence contracts.

Core Features:

Reaffirm the UK's commitment to NATO as the foundation of national defence.

Conduct an independent review of the Trident nuclear programme to assess costs, necessity, and strategic alternatives.

Redirect savings from unnecessary arms contracts into cybersecurity, climate resilience, and veterans' support.

Prioritise peacekeeping, disaster relief, and defence innovation in future UK force planning.

Commit to democratic oversight of all major defence spending.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Commission independent review of Trident and overall military spending.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Shift procurement practices to favour UK-based, ethical suppliers. Expand funding for NATO operations and cyber defence.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Reinvest savings into domestic resilience, including flood protection, energy security, and intelligence capacity.

Expected Outcomes:

Maintains global security role without wasteful militarism.

Ensures UK is equipped for 21st-century security threats.

Reinforces trust through transparency and multilateralism.

Frees up funds for other public priorities.

Budget Impact:

Savings of up to £5–7 billion/year over 10 years through procurement reform and Trident reassessment. Reinvestment ensures continued operational readiness.

1.11 Universal Free School Meals Programme

Purpose:

To ensure every child receives a healthy, nutritious meal at school, while reducing stigma, improving learning, and promoting long-term public health.

Core Features:

Provide free school meals to all pupils in primary and secondary education, regardless of income.

Meals to be freshly prepared with balanced, nutritious ingredients.

Integrate food education into the curriculum to teach nutrition, cooking skills, and healthy eating habits.

Support local food producers and reduce processed food use in schools.

Meals to reflect diverse dietary, cultural, and health needs.

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Begin rollout in primary schools and develop new food education curriculum.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Expand to all secondary schools; train school kitchen staff and upgrade facilities.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Integrate school food into wider public health campaigns and community wellness strategies.

Expected Outcomes:

Improved academic performance, behaviour, and concentration.

Reduced childhood obesity and long-term NHS demand.

Increased equality and dignity in schools.

Healthier attitudes to food among future generations.

Budget Impact:

Estimated cost £2.5–3 billion/year. Offset by long-term NHS savings, increased attendance, and public health levy revenue.

1.12 Social Media Age Restriction & Digital Responsibility Act

Purpose:

exposure through age restrictions, digital literacy, and platform accountability.

Core Features:

Introduce a minimum age of 16 for access to major social media platforms.

Require robust age verification systems and penalties for non-compliance.

Develop digital citizenship education in schools focused on online safety and critical thinking.

Establish independent oversight body to regulate online content targeting underage users.

Include transitional exceptions (e.g. monitored school platforms, safe digital learning environments).

Implementation Plan:

Phase 1 (Year 1): Pass legislation and develop age verification standards. Begin digital literacy curriculum design.

Phase 2 (Years 2–3): Enforce restrictions and roll out school programmes. Begin penalising non-compliant platforms.

Phase 3 (Years 4–5): Expand education to parents, caregivers, and adult learners. Monitor youth outcomes and platform compliance.

Expected Outcomes:

Improved mental health and wellbeing for children and teens.

Reduced exposure to harmful content and addictive design.

Increased public awareness of online safety and media literacy.

Stronger accountability for tech companies.

Budget Impact:

Low direct cost; funded via fines, education budget, and digital regulation fund. Long-term social and healthcare savings expected.

Position Papers

Position Paper 1: Public Ownership & Corporate Accountability

Context & Rationale

The UK has experienced decades of privatisation across essential sectors — energy, water, transport, and public infrastructure. While promised efficiency and innovation, the reality has been rising costs, declining service quality, environmental damage, and a lack of public accountability.

Worse, legal mechanisms such as the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) process, enforced by bodies like ICSID, can allow corporations to sue governments over regulations or nationalisation efforts that impact their profits — even when those actions are taken in the public interest.

This undermines democratic decision-making and hands disproportionate power to private interests at the expense of the environment, affordability, and sovereignty.

Our Position

The Public Interest Party believes essential services should operate for people, not profit. We support:

Public ownership of energy, water, rail, and core infrastructure

Strong transparency laws for all companies operating with public contracts or natural monopolies

An end to sweetheart deals and taxpayer-funded bailouts of failing private operators

Legal reform to prevent corporate legal mechanisms like ICSID from overriding UK democratic decisions

Use of the Human Rights Act as a defence against corporate arbitration that ignores public welfare

We believe in clean water, affordable power, and public transport that works — not dividends for overseas shareholders.

Framing:

This is not a return to outdated bureaucracy. It's a move toward modern, accountable public services — with transparency, oversight, and reinvestment into communities.

Essential services are not optional. They are a shared right. It's time we took back control — not as a slogan, but as policy.

Position Paper 2: Clean Water, Healthy Waterways

Context & Rationale

Privatised water companies in the UK have allowed raw sewage discharges into rivers and seas at a shocking scale — often while paying out billions in dividends. Many communities face health risks, environmental degradation, and loss of access to clean, safe water.

Unhealthy waterways are not just an ecological problem — they are a public health issue and a reflection of systemic failure.

Our Position

We support:

The public ownership of water companies

Criminal prosecution powers for repeated polluters

Full transparency of discharge, pollution, and maintenance data

Immediate investment in wastewater infrastructure upgrades

Prioritisation of healthy rivers, canals, and coasts as part of our national environmental commitment

Empowerment of communities and local councils in water quality monitoring

Framing:

We reject the idea that environmental destruction is an acceptable cost of doing business.

Water is life. And our water system should reflect our values — public health, environmental respect, and long-term sustainability.

We will restore trust in our water supply, bring polluters to justice, and make clean waterways a national priority.

Position Paper 3: Public Transport for Public Good

Context & Rationale

The privatisation of public transport — especially rail — has led to fare hikes, service cuts, and public subsidies flowing to private shareholders. Meanwhile, bus routes have disappeared, rural areas are isolated, and road congestion continues to grow.

The UK needs a public transport system that is reliable, affordable, accessible — and owned by the people.

Our Position

We propose:

Public ownership of rail services and key regional bus networks

Expansion of rural and underserved routes to combat isolation

Standardised, low-fare national travel passes

Green upgrades to bus and rail fleets to meet net zero goals

Universal accessibility standards across the network

Use of profits to reinvest in service improvement, not private dividends

Transport should connect people — not divide them by wealth or postcode.

Framing

Public transport isn't just about mobility. It's about opportunity, climate, equality, and economic strength. A modern transport system is an investment in every citizen.

We will bring it back into public hands — and make it work for everyone.

Position Paper 4: Energy Security Through Public Ownership

Context & Rationale

Energy prices have skyrocketed, leaving millions in fuel poverty while privatised suppliers post record profits. The UK's energy market is vulnerable to international shocks, and its fragmented ownership undermines national energy security.

At the same time, the climate crisis demands urgent transition to clean energy — a task ill-suited to corporations focused on short-term profits.

Our Position

We support:

Creation of a publicly owned national energy provider

Democratic control of the grid and long-term planning of energy supply

Major investment in renewables, storage, and grid infrastructure

Windfall taxation on excessive fossil fuel profits

Transparent pricing and affordable tariffs for all households

An end to greenwashing by energy firms

Legal reforms to prevent foreign investor lawsuits over public interest climate actions (e.g. ICSID pushback)

Energy is a basic need — not a commodity for speculation.

Framing

We will keep the lights on, cut bills, and lead the clean energy transition — not through private handouts, but through public purpose.

Position Paper 5: Digital Misinformation & Media Reform

Context & Rationale

Misinformation — whether in politics, health, or climate — spreads faster than ever. It distorts public debate, erodes trust in science and institutions, and can put lives at risk.

Too often, tech platforms profit from disinformation, while media monopolies push coordinated narratives without transparency.

We believe in freedom of expression — but freedom must be balanced with responsibility.

Our Position

We support:

A tiered penalty system for persistent disinformation by media outlets and platforms

Fines and license consequences for coordinated misinformation campaigns

Independent regulation — free from political interference — to oversee implementation

Public funding for fact-checking and investigative journalism

Media literacy education in schools

Public campaigns to raise awareness about corporate propaganda techniques

Reinvestment of fines into public-interest media and media trust grants

We won't control the press — but we will hold it to a standard that respects truth and public safety.

Framing

A free press is vital. So is an informed public. We will challenge media manipulation — not with censorship, but with accountability.

Position Paper 6: Preventative Public Health – Beyond Hospitals

Context & Rationale

The NHS is overstretched — treating millions for preventable diseases linked to diet, lifestyle, pollution, and stress. Yet funding and policy remain focused on reactive care, with limited investment in prevention, public health messaging, or environmental health determinants.

Ultra-processed foods, air pollution, sedentary work, and low public health literacy contribute to long-term illness and growing NHS costs. Meanwhile, corporations continue to profit from products that directly harm public health.

We need to shift from a sickness system to a wellbeing system.

Our Position

We support a national Preventative Health Strategy focused on reducing demand on the NHS and improving quality of life, including:

Dedicated funding for research into lifestyle, diet, and health outcomes

A national campaign on healthy living, mental health, and physical activity

Tobacco-style health warnings on ultra-processed food packaging

A health impact levy on corporations profiting from harmful food ingredients

Investment in community-based preventative health services

Public cooking and nutrition education programmes, particularly in schools

Integrated environmental health policy linking clean air, transport, and planning

Preventative care is healthcare in advance — and it saves money, lives, and time.

Framing

The best way to help the NHS is to need it less.

We're not blaming individuals — we're challenging the corporate and structural systems that make poor health more likely. We will invest in healthier environments, smarter food regulation, and stronger public understanding — all while reducing long-term costs to the public purse.

Position Paper 7: Universal Free School Meals – Health, Equality & Learning

Context & Rationale

Child hunger remains widespread in the UK — a wealthy country where children go to school without breakfast or a proper lunch. This affects not only health, but also concentration, attainment, and long-term wellbeing.

Currently, free school meals are means-tested, leaving many children excluded. Means testing also creates stigma, complexity, and uneven access.

We believe in universal provision — for dignity, equality, and simplicity.

Our Position

The Public Interest Party supports:

Universal free school meals for all children, regardless of income

Meals designed to meet nutritional standards and promote healthy eating habits

School-based food education that links meals with learning — including cooking, nutrition, and health science

Local procurement strategies to support UK farmers and reduce food miles

Revenue offset through long-term NHS cost savings and taxation on unhealthy food profiteers

No child should go hungry at school. And every child should learn what healthy eating really means.

Framing

This is an investment in our children — and in our future NHS.

Free school meals reduce inequality, improve health, and remove barriers to learning. They teach lifelong habits and ensure that no child is left out because of a packed lunch their family couldn't afford.

It's not just a meal — it's a head start.

Position Paper 8: Modern Curriculum Reform – Education for the Real World

Context & Rationale

The current UK curriculum is outdated — rooted in 20th-century priorities and ill-suited for a fast-changing world. Students are over-tested, under-inspired, and often unprepared for real-life challenges like digital literacy, climate change, civic engagement, and emotional wellbeing.

We need a school system that builds resilience, relevance, and readiness for modern life.

Our Position

We support a Curriculum for the Future programme to:

Establish a National Task Force on Curriculum Reform with teachers, students, academics, and employers

Introduce or expand subjects such as:

Digital & media literacy

Climate science & sustainability

Citizenship & political literacy

Financial literacy & economics

Mental health and relationships education

Reduce over-testing in favour of continuous assessment and creative learning

Ensure that SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and neurodivergent students are fully supported in curriculum design

Education should prepare children to thrive — not just pass exams.

Framing

The world has changed — education must too.

We're not dumbing down. We're catching up. A modern curriculum gives young people the tools to understand their world, shape their future, and participate meaningfully in society.

Position Paper 9: Farming & Food Sovereignty – Putting Farmers and Communities First

Context & Rationale

UK farmers are facing price instability, rising input costs, post-Brexit trade challenges, and growing land inequality. Meanwhile, supermarket power and corporate lobbying have concentrated control of the food system into a few powerful hands.

At the same time, the UK imports nearly half its food, undermining national food security and increasing carbon emissions.

We believe in food sovereignty — the right of people to define and control their own food systems.

Our Position

The Public Interest Party will:

Support small and medium-sized farms with stable pricing, local procurement opportunities, and fair regulation

Create a Land Use & Access Commission to address hoarding, restore unused land, and promote sustainable production

Expand subsidies for regenerative, organic, and agroecological practices

Invest in public food growing schemes, local processing, and shorter supply chains

Oppose trade deals that undermine UK food standards or flood markets with cheap imports

Prioritise farming in national climate resilience and energy strategies

We will ensure that farming is viable, valued, and protected — as an essential public service.

Framing

Farmers feed us. They deserve more than slogans — they deserve policy.

We'll strengthen food security, protect rural livelihoods, and shift subsidies from extraction to regeneration.

This is how we feed ourselves. And how we honour those who make that possible.

Position Paper 10: Tech & Social Media Regulation – Protecting Minds, Defending Democracy

Context & Rationale

Social media platforms have become central to public life — shaping opinion, behaviour, mental health, and political discourse. But with limited oversight, they now function as

unregulated mega-influencers, spreading disinformation and manipulating attention for profit.

Young people, in particular, are vulnerable to addiction, anxiety, and algorithmic harm.

Our Position

We propose a Digital Responsibility Framework including:

A minimum age of 16 for social media access, enforced by verifiable safeguards

A new independent Tech Accountability Regulator with powers to issue fines, enforce standards, and investigate harms

A tiered penalty system for platforms spreading or failing to act on disinformation

Media literacy education across schools and communities

A duty of care on platforms to protect users from harmful content and exploitative design

Reinvestment of tech fines into digital education and public-interest media

This is not censorship — it's public protection in the digital age.

Framing

If you wouldn't let your child into a gambling hall, why let them roam algorithmic traps alone?

This policy protects minds, promotes truth, and puts public wellbeing above platform profits.

Position Paper 11: A New Economic Compass – Purpose Before Profit

Context & Rationale

Modern capitalism has delivered wealth for some — but insecurity, ecological crisis, and inequality for many. GDP growth is treated as the ultimate measure of success, even when it comes at the cost of climate, community, and public health.

Corporate profit is prioritised over human rights. Austerity is framed as responsibility, while offshore wealth and environmental destruction go unchecked.

We need a new compass — one that points toward wellbeing, fairness, and sustainability.

Our Position

The Public Interest Party supports:

Shifting from GDP obsession to Wellbeing Economics, using indicators like health, environment, and inequality

Reforming public procurement to favour ethical, local, and socially beneficial enterprises

Ending corporate tax breaks that reward offshoring, pollution, or low-wage exploitation

Supporting small businesses, co-operatives, and alternative economic models

Promoting long-term investment in care, green tech, infrastructure, and education

Replacing extractive growth with regenerative economic design

Strengthening unions and fair pay across sectors

Our economy should serve society — not the other way around.

Framing

This isn't about left or right — it's about what works.

A fairer economy is more stable. A greener economy is more secure. And a more humane economy is not a fantasy — it's a choice.

Position Paper 12: Climate Resilience as National Security – Defending the Nation Against the 21st Century's Greatest Threat

Our Position

The Public Interest Party supports reframing defence and security to include climate resilience as a core national security goal. We propose:

Declaring climate change a Tier 1 security threat

Creating a Climate Security Task Force within the Ministry of Defence

Investing in flood defence, food sovereignty, and energy resilience

Collaborating with NATO on climate migration and security planning

Embedding climate risk in foreign policy, defence, and emergency planning

Linking this strategy to Trident and broader defence spending reviews

Framing

We are not retreating from defence — we are modernising it.

Peace is not just about guns. It's about survival in a world of rising seas and failed crops. Climate resilience is national security.

Position Paper13: Affordable Housing vs. Market Pressure – Rebalancing the System for the Public Good

Our Position

The Public Interest Party supports:

Large-scale construction of zero-carbon public housing

Ending Right to Buy discounts to retain public stock

Rent controls in high-pressure areas

A Land Reform Task Force to tackle land hoarding and speculation

Expanding co-operative and community-led housing models

Using planning powers to shift the balance toward people, not profit

Framing

We're not trying to crash the housing market. We're trying to fix it.

Housing is not just a commodity. It's a human right — and the market has failed to provide it for too many for too long.

Position Paper 14: International Aid & Corporate Capture – Restoring Integrity to Global Development

Our Position

We will:

Redirect aid directly to recipient governments and community organisations

Ban development outsourcing to for-profit firms

Create an Ethical Development Commission

Prioritise climate, health, and education in UK aid policy

Publish full transparency reports on spending and impact

Use aid as solidarity, not influence or leverage

Framing

We're not cutting aid. We're cleaning it up.

Development is about people — not profits. We will make sure UK aid reaches those who need it, not the pockets of contractors

Summary Brief – Spending Review & Fiscal Strategy

Public Interest Party | 2025–2030 Parliament

Core Purpose

The Public Interest Party offers a bold but practical fiscal plan to rebuild the UK around public good, not corporate profit. Our strategy invests in people, climate resilience, and long-term sustainability — without reckless borrowing or unfair tax hikes.

Key Figures (2025–2030)

Total Additional Spending: £223.1 billion

New Revenue Raised: £213 billion

5-Year Deficit: ~£10.1 billion (0.3% of GDP)

Peak Borrowing: <3% of GDP (for capital investment only)

Top 5 Revenue Sources

- 1. Corporate Tax Reform £45bn
- 2. End of Public Sector Outsourcing £32bn
- 3. Green Carbon Levy £20bn
- 4. Processed Food & Harmful Ingredient Levy £12bn
- 5. Revenues from Public Ownership (utilities, transport, energy) £16bn

Top 5 Spending Priorities

1. Zero-Carbon Public Housing and Land Reform

- 2. NHS Renewal, Prevention Strategy, and Lifestyle Health Research
- 3. Public Ownership of Energy, Water, Transport, and Infrastructure
- 4. Education Reform, Universal School Meals, and SEND Support
- 5. Climate Resilience Projects and Green Jobs Transition

Credibility at the Core

All spending is matched by detailed, legitimate revenue plans

Borrowing is limited, targeted, and responsible

No income tax hikes for low or middle earners

Public dashboards, independent oversight, and legal safeguards ensure transparency

Accountability Built In

Real-time public spending trackers

Independent Public Interest Budgeting Office

Citizens' Oversight Panels

Reformed Freedom of Information laws

Strict fiscal integrity pledges for all officeholders

Takeaway Message

We don't need to choose between fairness and affordability. With honesty, transparency, and smart planning, we can afford to build a country that works for everyone.

Spending Review & Fiscal Strategy

1. Introduction

Overview of the manifesto's overall fiscal approach.

Statement of purpose: to demonstrate that the party's policies are financially responsible and deliverable.

Emphasis on transparency, long-term planning, and people-before-profit principles.

2. Methodology – How We Calculated Our Costs and Revenue

This section outlines the technical basis for our costings and revenue forecasts. Transparency is a core value of the Public Interest Party — and that includes explaining how our numbers are built.

Data Sources

All figures in this review are based on the most recent available data from:

Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR)

HM Treasury Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)

National Audit Office (NAO)

Independent research from universities and public interest think tanks

International comparators (e.g. OECD, EU, New Zealand Wellbeing Budget)

Where exact data was unavailable, we have used proportional scaling based on UK population, inflation-adjusted historic spending, or case studies from relevant sectors.

Inflation and Economic Assumptions

All figures are presented in 2025/26 prices, adjusted for expected inflation.

Forecasts assume a steady GDP growth rate of 1.5% annually, aligned with post-COVID averages.

No major shocks (e.g. global financial crises, pandemics, or energy collapses) are assumed.

Interest rates assumed at an average of 3.5%, based on Bank of England forward guidance.

Costing Principles

Each policy in our manifesto was costed using one of the following approaches:

- 1. Direct scaling from current spending (e.g. increasing NHS preventive care budget by 10% = X)
- 2. Per capita modelling (e.g. cost per pupil for universal free school meals × number of pupils)
- 3. International benchmarks (e.g. what other countries spend on universal childcare or green energy)
- 4. Historical precedent (e.g. cost of past public housing programmes, scaled to today's prices)
- 5. Bottom-up estimates from pilot programmes or academic models

Revenue Assumptions

Revenue projections are based on:

Existing tax data (e.g. HMRC receipts)

Conservative estimates for new levies (e.g. health impact levy, carbon dividend)

Recovery of funds from stopping corporate outsourcing and tax avoidance

Targeted, limited tax reform based on progressive principles

Reinvestment of fines from misinformation, environmental breaches, and fraud

We have avoided excessive reliance on general tax increases, instead using smart reforms, redirected funds, and structural change.

Time Horizon

All core costs and revenue figures are calculated across a 5-year parliamentary term.

Major capital projects (like housing or infrastructure) include phased rollouts with front-loaded investment and back-loaded returns.

Deficit/surplus projections are given for each year to show affordability over time.

Verification & Transparency

An Independent Budget Advisory Panel (proposed in our policy) will validate and monitor real-time spending and revenue performance.

All models, assumptions, and cost tables will be published in a supplementary appendix for public review.

We are committed to budgeting in plain English — with data that's clear, accessible, and understandable.

3. Projected Costs by Policy Area (2025/26–2029/30)

This section sets out projected costs for each of the party's major policy areas across a full five-year parliamentary term. Figures are rounded for clarity and will be broken down in more detail in the appendices.

All totals are in billions of pounds (£bn) at 2025/26 prices.

3.1 NHS, Preventative Health & Care System Reform

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Expand NHS funding with focus on prevention 40

Lifestyle and diet research initiatives 2.5

Health warnings and reform of food labelling 0.3

Free school meals and food education 6

Social care investment (staffing + coverage) 15

Care service reform and efficiency review 1.2

Subtotal 65 bn

3.2. Education & Child Development

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Curriculum reform and modernisation 3

Learning support for neurodivergent pupils 2

Universal free school meals (see also Health) -

Public school accountability and inclusion reforms 1

Subtotal 6 bn

3.3. Housing, Infrastructure & Land Reform

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Public housing construction (zero-carbon) 45

Housing access services and oversight 1.5

Land reform task force and land value taxation prep 0.5

Renewable integration (energy return to grid) 3

Subtotal 50 bn

3.4. Energy, Water & Transport Renationalisation

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Public buyout (staged, starting with water) 20

Green infrastructure (smart grid, storage) 25

Public transport investment 15

Clean canals and waterways 1.2

Subtotal 61.2 bn

3.5. Climate Action & Sustainability

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Green transition funds for heavy industries 7

Rewilding and biodiversity programmes 2.5

Climate-resilient farming and food security 3

Home energy retrofitting (fuel poverty target) 10

Research and innovation (climate science, carbon capture) 3

Subtotal 25.5 bn

3.6. Democracy, Justice & Policing

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Police funding and restructuring 5

Public transparency and FOI reforms 0.5

Establish House of Citizens pilot programme 0.2

Media oversight and misinformation enforcement 0.6

Legal aid and justice system investment 2

Subtotal 8.3 bn

3.7. Defence & International Cooperation

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Maintain NATO commitment (2% GDP baseline) already budgeted

Climate defence integration and resilience 2

Independent Trident cost review 0.1

International aid reform and reallocation 1.5

Subtotal 3.6 bn (above baseline spending)

3.8. Miscellaneous/Innovation

Policy Areas 5-Year Total (£bn)

Digital regulation (social media age restriction, safety tools) 0.8

Urban agriculture & food growing initiatives 0.7

National Arts Support & Creative Access Fund 1.5

Task force infrastructure (climate, food, AI etc.) 0.5

Subtotal 3.5 bn

Total Projected Cost Over 5 Years:

> £223.1 billion

This figure includes some overlap (e.g. free school meals appear under both health and education) and will be refined further in the appendices. Importantly, it reflects front-loaded investment in housing, energy, and public ownership — which generate returns and savings in later years.

4. Revenue Streams Summary – Funding the Public Interest

This section outlines how the Public Interest Party will responsibly raise funds to meet the £223.1 billion in planned spending over the five-year term. Our approach prioritises fairness, sustainability, and independence from corporate influence.

We reject both austerity and unchecked borrowing. Instead, we unlock funds through:

Smart tax reforms

Ending wasteful outsourcing

Reclaiming public service profits

Fair levies on harmful practices

Long-term savings from prevention and efficiency

Primary Revenue Sources (Estimated 5-Year Yield)

Revenue Stream 5-Year Estimated Yield (£bn) Notes

- 1. Corporate Tax Reform 45 Close avoidance loopholes; minimum effective tax rates on large companies
- 2. End Outsourcing of Public Services 32 Savings from reclaiming NHS, prison, and council services into public hands
- 3. Green Dividend (Carbon Levy) 20 Modest carbon pricing on corporate polluters, returned to the public and reinvested
- 4. Ultra-Processed Food & Ingredient Levy 12 Tax on corporate use of harmful food additives, tied to NHS cost recovery
- 5. Misinformation & Harmful Content Fines 5 Collected from platforms and publishers spreading verifiable disinformation
- 6. Public Ownership Dividends 16 Revenues from re-nationalised energy/water/transport reinvested into public services
- 7. Land Value Tax Pilot & Empty Property Reform 8 Phased introduction of LVT and action on vacant properties
- 8. Ending Trident Replacement Programme (if recommended by review) 14 Savings from halting or scaling down nuclear weapons replacement
- 9. NHS & Police Spending Reform 12 Savings recovered from targeted audits, tech modernisation, fraud reduction
- 10. Efficient Use of Public Land for Housing 4 Capturing land value uplift from development of idle public sites
- 11. Selective Tax Rebalancing 10 Fair increases on wealth-based taxes (e.g. capital gains, high-value inheritances)
- 12. Debt Restructuring & Borrowing Headroom (maintaining under 3% GDP) 35 Targeted borrowing for capital investment, well below OECD averages

Total Estimated Revenue (5-Year Projection):

> £213 billion

This leaves a manageable gap of ~£10.1 billion over five years, which can be covered by: Moderate temporary borrowing (within existing borrowing headroom) Additional scaling of progressive levies (e.g. food, digital harm fines) Underspend flex (built-in contingency for delayed capital projects)

Revenue Principles

No general income tax rises for basic-rate earners

No VAT increases on essential goods

High earners and large corporations will pay a fairer share

Environmental and public health harms will be taxed where they create costs

Transparency of where every penny comes from and where it goes

This revenue model shows that we can afford a fairer society without breaking the public purse or punishing ordinary families.

6. Risk Assessment - Preparing for the Unexpected

The Public Interest Party recognises that even the most well-planned fiscal strategy must remain responsive to real-world events. This section outlines the key risks to our

financial projections and explains how we will manage them without compromising our core values.

6.1. Key Risk Categories

Global recession, financial instability, or major trade disruption

Inflationary pressure causing cost overruns

Interest rate fluctuations increasing borrowing costs

Response:

Our borrowing plan is limited to capital projects, so inflation-linked spending is contained

We maintain a 3% contingency buffer in the total budget

Emergency borrowing capacity is preserved by avoiding excessive front-loading of debt

6.2. Revenue Underperformance

Delay in implementing tax reforms or levies

Lower-than-expected returns from misinformation fines or public service dividends

Slower uptake of climate-based charges due to corporate resistance

Response:

Conservative revenue forecasts used throughout (e.g. misinformation fines capped below actual enforcement potential)

Backup revenue tools identified, including temporary wealth surcharges or green bonds

Phased rollouts mean underperformance in early years can be corrected in later years

6.3. Political and Legal Resistance

Corporate legal challenges to public ownership or levies

Pushback from international investors using mechanisms like ICSID

Media campaigns undermining legitimacy of fair taxation or green policy

Response:

All policies are Human Rights Act–compliant and designed with UK legal precedent in mind Renationalisation and levy programmes are justified on public interest, climate, and service delivery grounds

The party will maintain a legal defence fund and support legislation to reinforce UK sovereignty in public policy decisions

6.4. Implementation Risk

Delays in housing construction, education reform, or public sector recruitment
Insufficient administrative capacity in newly remunicipalised services
Resistance from local authorities or existing outsourced contractors

Response:

Implementation task forces will be set up for each major policy area with independent oversight

Pilot programmes will precede full rollout for high-risk initiatives (e.g. House of Citizens, green rewilding)

Councils will receive transition grants to phase out reliance on outsourcing

6.5. Public Confidence and Misinformation

Campaigns by vested interests could distort understanding of our budget strategy

Doubts about affordability could be stoked by opposition or media outlets

Response:

Real-time public budget dashboards will allow voters to see how funds are raised and spent
Clear, visual budget summaries will accompany all major policies
An Independent Public Audit Office will report annually on delivery and effectiveness

6.7. Resilience-by-Design

Our spending strategy is built to flex, not fracture. It contains:

Contingency buffers in both spending and revenue projections

Pause mechanisms for large capital projects if revenue underperforms

Performance tracking to trigger early intervention where targets slip

No over-reliance on a single revenue source, avoiding domino effects

7. Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability – Investing for Future Generations

The Public Interest Party's fiscal strategy is not just about balancing books over five years; it's about laying the financial and social foundations for the next generation. This section explains how our investments create lasting economic, environmental, and public service dividends.

7.1. Reducing Long-Term Structural Costs

Our policies are designed to lower the structural burden on public finances by tackling the root causes of long-term expenditure:

Preventative health strategy reduces chronic disease and NHS strain

Universal school meals with nutrition education reduce future healthcare costs

Zero-carbon public housing reduces fuel poverty and environmental health impacts

Renationalised utilities return profits to the public, replacing subsidies and price bailouts

Climate resilience reduces future infrastructure and emergency repair costs

Media literacy and misinformation control strengthen democratic institutions, reducing polarisation-driven inefficiencies

7.2. Generational Returns on Capital Investment

Much of our front-loaded spending (housing, energy, infrastructure) creates enduring public assets. These:

Generate public income (e.g. surplus energy sold to the grid)

Increase long-term tax receipts (e.g. healthier, better-educated workforce)

Reduce private profit siphoning (e.g. dividends to offshore utility owners)

Strengthen domestic supply chains, reducing import dependency

These investments pay for themselves over time, both economically and socially.

7.3. Green Transition as Fiscal Safeguard

Climate change presents a growing financial risk to the UK economy. Flood damage, food insecurity, heat-related health costs, and insurance market volatility all increase without urgent action.

By investing early in:

Home insulation and retrofitting

Flood resilience infrastructure

Sustainable agriculture

Clean energy generation and grid upgrades

We reduce future costs and economic volatility, while creating high-quality green jobs.

7.4. Institutional Anchors for Long-Term Stability

To ensure fiscal responsibility outlives any one government, we propose:

A Public Interest Budgeting Office to track policy delivery and ROI

Independent citizens' panels to review future spending priorities

A fiscal resilience framework for future administrations, based on wellbeing metrics

Embedded climate and health impact audits in every major policy decision

7.5. Debt Sustainability

National debt under our plan rises only marginally — remaining below 3% of GDP across the term

Borrowing is restricted to investment-grade capital projects only

We will maintain the UK's international credit credibility by avoiding reckless tax cuts or blanket subsidies

In short: this is not a spending spree — it's a realignment of the UK's economy toward long-term strength, fairness, and resilience.

8. Public Accountability and Monitoring – Proving Our Promises

Trust in politics is at an all-time low. The Public Interest Party believes fiscal credibility isn't just about numbers — it's about transparency, delivery, and direct public oversight. This

section outlines how we will ensure that every promise made is trackable, and every pound spent is justifiable.

8.1. Real-Time Public Budget Dashboard

We will launch a publicly accessible digital budget platform where anyone can:

Track headline spending by policy area

See revenue performance in real time

Monitor cost-efficiency metrics and delivery milestones

View project-level breakdowns (e.g. homes built, energy returned to grid)

Compare actual delivery against targets set in the manifesto

This will use clear visualisations, not jargon — empowering public and media scrutiny alike.

8.2. Independent Oversight Bodies

We will strengthen or establish the following independent institutions:

Public Interest Budgeting Office (PIBO) – audits and reports annually on fiscal health, ROI, and policy delivery

Citizens' Spending Oversight Panels – randomly selected members of the public will review progress reports and advise on long-term fiscal decisions

Public Procurement Review Board – ensures open, competitive tendering and eliminates waste or cronyism in contracts

Legal Defence Fund for Public Services – resourced to defend against corporate legal interference (e.g. ICSID-type challenges)

8.3. Transparency Reforms

We will amend the Freedom of Information Act to:

Require publication of all spending decisions above £250,000

Mandate disclosure of contracts, lobbying activities, and impact assessments

Prevent the use of "commercial confidentiality" to shield government waste or corruption

These changes will make it impossible to hide how public money is spent.

8.4. Public Feedback & Correction Mechanisms

Annual "People's Fiscal Review" – invites public submissions and surveys on delivery

Embedded rapid review task forces – to respond to emerging issues or failures in implementation

All major programmes will be designed with a fail-safe scaling system, allowing them to be adjusted or paused without full programme collapse

8.5. Fiscal Integrity Pledge

All elected officials and appointees in the Public Interest Party will be required to Sign a Fiscal Integrity Pledge committing to evidence-led, transparent budgeting

Declare all private sector affiliations and potential conflicts of interest

Abstain from personal financial gain linked to public contracts