

Presented by Paul  
McLennan

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SCOTLAND



## WHAT AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND WOULD MEAN FOR EAST LOTHIAN

**Paul McLennan, MSP for East Lothian since 2021 .**

- Housing Minister 2023-2025
- Councillor 2007-2022, Leader 2010-2012.
- SNP Member 30 years
- Dunbar Community Councillor 10 years
- Board Positions NHS Lothian , Scottish Enterprise .



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## **ISSUES STILL RESERVED**

- The Constitution — The Crown (including succession), the Union between Scotland and England, the UK Parliament itself, and aspects like international relations.
- Defence and national security — Armed forces, war and peace, treason.
- Foreign affairs — International relations, treaties, and the regulation of international trade (with some exceptions).
- Immigration and nationality — Borders, citizenship, asylum, and immigration policy.
- Economic and financial matters — Macroeconomic policy, currency, financial services and markets, most taxation (though Scotland has powers over income tax rates/bands, land/buildings transaction tax, and aggregates levy), National Insurance contributions, and most benefits/social security (some aspects like certain disability/winter heating payments have been devolved or shared).
- Energy — Most aspects (e.g., oil/gas, nuclear energy, electricity generation and supply), though some like energy efficiency have been devolved.



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## **ISSUES STILL RESERVED**

- Transport — Regulation of air transport, most rail services, road transport licensing, and maritime matters (some transport like roads and buses is devolved).
- Employment and industrial relations — Most employment law, trade unions, and industrial relations.
- Broadcasting and telecommunications — Regulation of TV, radio, internet/telecoms infrastructure.
- Equality and human rights — Most equality legislation (though Scotland can legislate in some areas).
- Consumer protection and competition — General policy, though some enforcement is shared.
- Elections — To the UK Parliament (Westminster elections); Scottish Parliament elections are largely devolved.



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## HOUSING

- £4.9 Billion Action Plan: The government has committed up to £4.9 billion over the next four years to its Housing Emergency Action Plan. £926M 26/27
- Long-Term Targets: The SNP aims to deliver 100,000 affordable homes by 2032, with at least 70% designated for social rent.
- **Reserved**
- No Borrowing Powers
- Local Housing Benefit



## IMMIGRATION

- East Lothian has labour shortages in key sectors
- Care – only 75% capacity
- Tourism/Hospitality
- Farming
- **Reserved**
- No powers of immigration
- Workplace Visas



## TAXATION /FINANCE

- East Lothian Job Density ration is around 65%t of national average
- Corporation Tax – no ability to attract business
- Investment opportunities – no tax incentives to attract business
- Limited ability to change Income Tax
  
- **Reserved**
- Corporation Tax
- Tax Credits
- No ability to borrow



## ENERGY

- East Lothian is a hub for Renewable Energy
- Regulation reserved . Price setting /Contract for Difference
- Investment into Grid reserved- growth constrained/ Export of energy
- Fuel Poverty -Limited ability to tackle
  
- **Reserved**
- Regulation
- Grid
- Price Setting



## WELFARE /PENSIONS

- Limited ability over Welfare
- Child Payment reducing Child Poverty
- 2 Child Cap proposals
- £3bn per year in mitigation (Bedroom Tax, etc)
- Lowest Pensions in Europe
  
- **Reserved**
- Universal Credit
- Disability benefits
- Pensions



## DEFENCE /FOREIGN POLICY

- Nuclear Weapons removed
- Nuclear Power removed
- Palestine.
  
- **Reserved**
- Defence
- Foreign Policy
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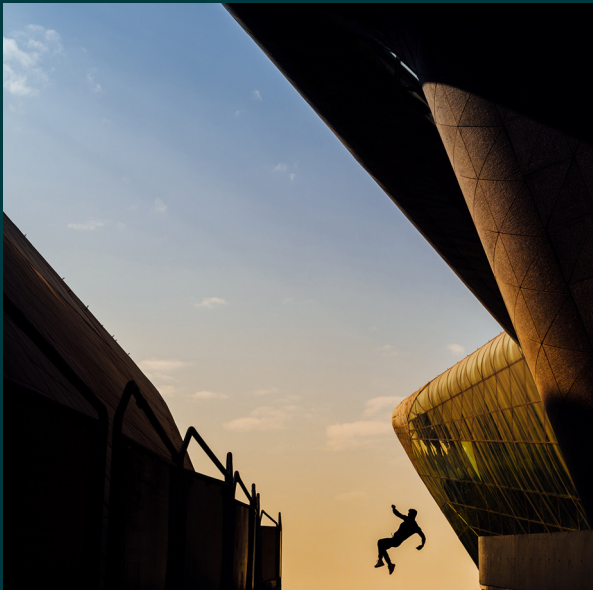
## SUMMARY

- More Housing
- Higher Economic Growth
- Lower Poverty Levels
- Fairer Benefit System
- Nuclear Weapons removed
- Ethical Foreign Policy

## • Reserved

- Nothing!!

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## Q&A