



**Renew<sup>uk</sup>**

**Rebuild  
Rethink  
Refresh  
Reshape  
Reform  
Resolve  
Reboot**

**Policy Blueprint**

# Renew<sup>uk</sup> National Assembly

## Saturday 24 November 2018

### Central Hall Westminster

#### REGISTRATION

10:00 – 11:00 am

- Collect badges and materials
- Cafe open

#### MORNING SESSION

11:00 – 12:00 noon

- Introduction
- Leaders opening remarks
- Brief candidate speeches
- Press Conference / Q&A

#### LUNCHTIME

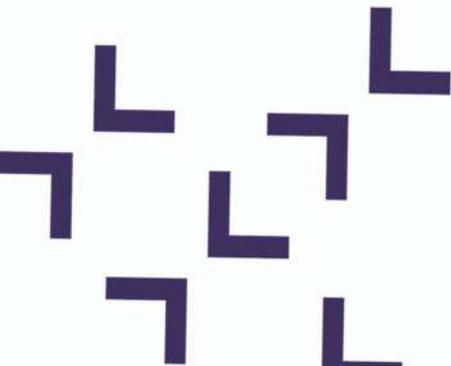
12:00 – 1:00 pm

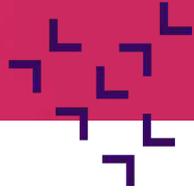
- Mass photo session in Parliament Square

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 – 5:00 pm

- Renew Q&A
- Candidate video interviews
- Social media training session
- Campaign, finance and election training session
- FAQ role-playing session: answering difficult questions
- Tone, style and confidence session
- Policy, constitution and code of conduct session
- Closing remarks





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Welcome to Renew UK. I am delighted to introduce the blueprint that will outline our future policy platform. What you see here is the beginning of a radical conversation that will evolve as the party grows over time. At the heart of any party is its candidates and ours are particularly courageous. To challenge the status quo from the position of an outsider is not easy; to reform politics even less so. Whilst these are concerning times for everyone, our representatives will fully embrace the challenge that lies ahead.

We are ordinary people from outside politics doing extraordinary things. The change that we hope to deliver by investing in democracy will be profound, if often seemingly unrewarded.

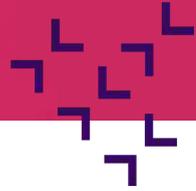
Whilst we know there is so much we need to do, unless we change the system that supports the lies we won't ever get the fundamental change that we need. The reality is we have an economic system where winner takes all and a political system where winning at all costs is the norm. No longer do our leaders appreciate presence; of police officers on the streets, nurses on wards, small businesses on the high street and carers in the home.

We reject Brexit because it will not solve our problems; the changes we need to make begin and end with us. By ensuring an affordable housing supply through a government owned 'Crown Corporation' and implementing a New Clean Air Act to help treat the epidemic of air pollution, we will make our towns and cities liveable. By investing a greater proportion of the NHS budget on disease prevention and providing a major boost to primary and secondary school budgets, we will make a good life the new normal. Add to that an effective and widespread apprenticeship and vocational skills programme, and we have a practical roadmap that helps us create change that matters.

We are not living through an era of change.  
We're living through a change of era.  
And you - the changemakers - can lead the charge.



Annabel Mullin  
Leader of Renew UK



## The Need for Political Renewal

The world around us is changing. Virtually every aspect of life is subject to significant disruption. Our family life, our work life and our relationships with government and big business are all changing at an unprecedented pace, change largely driven by the use and misuse of powerful new technologies. Democracy itself has been affected by these new forces, not always in a positive way. As individuals and as a society, we are finding it difficult to keep up with this change and to chart a stable course through it. This has created widespread frustration and exposed a vacuum of political leadership.

Fundamental aspects of life previously taken for granted are now being questioned. When can we look to government for support and when must we fend for ourselves? What rights do we have as citizens and to what extent must we compromise those rights to accommodate those of our neighbours? Who has a right to govern our lives and what is the limit of their authority? Who should take the blame – and be held accountable – for major political and economic events such as the 2008 financial crash and the chaotic Brexit process? Often the fact that there are no clear and easy answers to these questions leads to further uncertainty and more challenging questions.

A faltering economy is creating too few opportunities for young people and limiting their ability to build a stable life for themselves. London's economy serves as an engine for growth and investment but weighs too heavily on the rest of the country, dragging talent and investment south. For decades, the benefits of economic growth have gone disproportionately to those who are already wealthy.

Public services, under-resourced and unable to meet modern demands, are under huge and unsustainable pressure. Globalisation, free trade and technological advancement have been positive for the country as a whole but many of our communities have paid too much of the associated cost and received not enough of the benefit. Similarly, as a whole, the UK's membership of the EU has delivered significant benefits but those benefits have not always been spread equitably across society.



The established political parties have struggled to maintain public confidence in the face of these challenges. People's political views on a range of issues are much more fragmented than they used to be and, as a result, people are far less likely to identify strongly with a single political party. The old 'left / right' framework no longer seems fit for purpose and constrains people's ability to express their political views effectively.

The pain of the slow-motion political crash we have seen play out in 2018 is particularly hard to bear because the scars of the 2008 financial crash are still so fresh. The financial crash had a hugely detrimental effect on the lives of millions of ordinary people and yet those in positions of authority were never properly held to account. People have learned a lesson from 2008 and, as a result, they are unlikely to let those responsible for the 2018 political crash escape significant electoral punishment.

All this has created a political environment of rising frustration and resentment, and a strong desire for something new. That desire places the country at a crossroads. Advocates of hard-left and hard-right politics have been quick to put their offers to the people and, as a result, have secured effective control of the two main political parties. They claim an ability to return the country to some nostalgic age when life was better and simpler. In reality, that is an impossible task and, when the people realise they have been duped, their disappointment and anger may well be uncontainable.

## Why the Existing Political Parties are Not the Answer

Neither of the two main parties can offer a workable solution to current challenges.

The Conservative Party is in a state of crisis, despite being the party of government. It has been consumed by the conflict between the pro- and anti-Brexit factions fighting for control of the party. The scale of this conflict and the fact so much of it has played out in public view has significantly undermined its reputation as the party of competent, effective, pragmatic government and has shone a light on the purist ideology that now pervades the party and which must be appeased at all costs. Brexit has been allowed to consume enormous amounts of resource and attention, leaving other important areas such as education, policing and health service reform largely unattended, further reducing public confidence in our political class. There is a widely held public perception that the current Conservative Party has no vision or purpose beyond remaining in power for their own sake.

The Labour Party too is in a state of crisis. It is now dominated by members who espouse a hard-left agenda and who are focussed on consolidating their control of party machinery to ensure they cannot be ousted by more moderate colleagues and can purge the party of anyone who challenges their agenda. In recent years, the Labour party has lost its reputation as a party of tolerance and debate and gained one as a safe haven for aggressive, rigid ideologues, anti-Semites and misogynists. Faced with the uncertain future presented by Brexit and issues such as the threat to their employment raised by new technology, many traditional supporters look to Labour and are dismayed at the dysfunction they find. Despite facing what must be the weakest Conservative government in several generations, the Labour Party has failed to register a consistent and meaningful lead in any polls. Despite their claim to be the biggest political party in Europe, it appears the British public have little faith in their ability to govern. The soon expected purge of moderate MPs will do little to address this disillusionment.

In summary, our two main parties are struggling with weak leaders, severe internal divisions, ideologies that are stuck in the past, intolerance of those who are different or who hold different views, and with the seemingly impossible task of reconciling the implications of Brexit with historic policy positions.

Beyond the two main parties, and despite some obvious advantages, the Liberal Democrats are still not seen as a credible party of government. Their repeated failure to capitalise on their anti-Brexit stance shows they are not seen as a significant electoral force. Rightly or wrongly, the Liberal Democrat brand is seen as tarnished by many people as a result of the party's decision to go into coalition government with David Cameron's Conservatives in 2010 and their subsequent decision to renege on their pledge not to increase student tuition fees. There is a strong public perception that the leadership of the Liberal Democrats is stale and lacking in energy and vision. Recent attempts to reform the party's constitution received a lukewarm response from members and the wider public and seem unlikely to change the party's fortunes any time soon.

It is time for something new.

## Positive Disruption

Renew is responding to the country's desperate need for new and effective political leadership, focussed on uniting our country and addressing society's many challenges. We are responding to the vacuum created by politicians in the existing parties who know what needs to be done but are trapped within party structures that were designed for the 20th century and which incentivise behaviour that prioritises short-term, personal and party interests over long-term national interests.

We aim to provide a home for the millions of voters who currently define themselves as 'politically homeless', for whom the dysfunction of the two main parties has become too big to ignore.

Renew knows that the EU Referendum and other developments on the global stage herald the arrival of a new political age, one in which change and uncertainty are constant and the role of politicians and the nature of political parties will be very different. By bringing talented people from all walks of life into politics, we will be able to use the diverse skills and experiences of ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things.

Together, we are ready to challenge the status quo.

## Our Vision

While the challenges we face are daunting, we believe passionately in our society's ability to overcome them. We want to build a prosperous and compassionate society that balances personal fulfilment and community spirit. We prioritise national unity built on tolerance and diversity. We believe the UK should be a leading voice on the global stage, recognised as a highly desirable place in which to live and do business. We intend to recalibrate the UK's economy to ensure no-one is held back and no-one is left behind.

We will ensure this new economy is built on innovation, regulated free markets and responsible public finances. And, despite the UK's current trajectory, we will continue to work towards a future anchored in the security and prosperity afforded by full membership of the European Union. Renew believes that the foundations of a good life are a secure home, a safe and vibrant community, a productive and sustainable economy and a healthy environment. A reliable welfare state and a strong economy are two sides of the same coin, which together provide security and opportunity for all. Just as we believe an individual's wellbeing is enhanced by active engagement with friends and neighbours within their community, so we believe that our national interests are best served through open and active engagement with the international community.

By rejecting any ideological straitjacket, our vision leaves behind rigid ideas of 'left' and 'right'. We are driven by the desire to implement effective policy ideas from across the political spectrum regardless of origin. All too often these days, in our overly tribal political climate, there appears to be no base for those who believe in balanced and pragmatic politics. Renew aims to recreate that base with an agenda summed up by our mantra, Reject the Lies, Reform Politics, Reboot Britain. We will fight back against the hollow lies of the new wave populist politicians. We will reform our political system to close the gap that has opened up between ordinary people and their political representatives. And we will use the energy and talents of ordinary people to reboot our country in a way that makes it safer, healthier, more open, more competent and kinder.

It is time to assemble a new generation of political leaders committed to building a closer relationship with the country they have been elected to represent and to deliver change that actually matters to ordinary people.

### **Our starting point - Listening to Britain**

At the heart of our political mission is a desire to address the most important problems in people's lives. We are not interested in manufacturing problems to attract votes or in creating 'wedge issues' to force people to take sides. Nor are we concerned with indulging pet obsessions or long-running political fantasies.

At Renew, we try to focus on the issues that blight our communities and our society. We seek to understand their root causes in order to develop solutions that address the issue itself, rather than papering over cracks or shifting attention. We believe this can only be achieved through a constant, active and open dialogue with the communities we seek to represent.

That is why, in February, we launched our 'Listen to Britain' campaign. We have tried to visit every part of the country, engaging community groups, Renew candidates and supporters, and anyone else with a view to share about the state of our country. In doing so, we have engaged tens of thousands of people, online and in person, based around four simple questions:

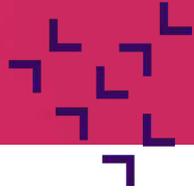
- What is working well in the UK?
- What is working badly in the UK?
- What is working well in your local community?
- What is working badly in your local community?

The responses were overwhelming – in their openness, nuance and desire for change. Across the UK, people told Renew:

- They were tired of modern politics. So much had been promised, by so many politicians, with so little to show for it that many simply didn't believe anything meaningful would ever change.
- Many concerns were interlinked. People who initially expressed concerns about immigration were almost always driven to do so by difficulties they had experienced with housing or access to public services.
- People's concerns broadly align to five categories:
  - Insecurity – the feeling not only that we are less safe than we should be, but also that the future is less certain. Just as young people are struggling with the burden of debt and the challenge of rising rents and house prices, parents are struggling to provide for their children and their own futures at the same time. Across the country many communities are haunted by the spectre of violent (particularly knife) crime.
  - Ill-Health – Many people talked to us about the challenges of getting and staying healthy, acutely aware of the pressure the NHS is under. These concerns existed across the healthcare spectrum. Mental healthcare provision is increasingly under pressure, even from a low base. Access to the latest treatments is being restricted or delayed. People are acutely aware of the battle to get a GP appointment longer than seven minutes and frightened about needing to go to A&E. But this is not just about the NHS; they are aware that their health stems from their environment and their communities as well as doctors and drugs. Climate change concerns many, while people in our towns and cities increasingly worry about the impact of pollution, particularly on their children.

- Lack of openness – as a society, we have become increasingly closed and antagonistic towards one another. As our faith in our elected representatives has diminished, so too has our faith in each other. Crucially, though, this existed on a general level, rather than an individual one. Many people expressed concern about social groups they felt they didn't fully understand or felt alienated from. The people of the UK are not racist, but they are human. In an era of challenges, they have been susceptible to the scapegoating rhetoric of many politicians, but they retained pride in our diversity and the achievements that has brought.
- Carelessness and incompetence – whether it be the financial crisis, the collapse of a private-sector provider of public services, or the sense that the UK is losing its competitive edge, many have lost trust in those often called 'the elites'. People are concerned that success accrues not to those most talented or most hard working, but to those best placed and most willing to exploit their fellow man. In turn, their faith in our ability to be successful in the 21st century, to deliver the change that is so desperately needed, is limited. They sense that their children's opportunities may be similarly curtailed and are keenly aware that today's young people seem likely to be poorer than their parents.
- Lack of compassion – there is a generally sad acceptance that we have stopped caring for the most vulnerable in society. The homeless, the elderly, those with mental health problems, the disabled and the many children living in poverty all suffer hugely in our society. People fear we have lost the drive to look after one another. We also seem to have lost the ability to empathise with each other, to understand other points of view, and to disagree robustly but civilly. Nowhere is this more evident than in the tone and the quality of our political debate. People could see how, in aggregate, these developments represent a significant threat to social and democratic norms and the extent to which they had already undermined many people's faith that anything useful could be done through our political system.

These issues are huge problems for the UK, but they can be solved. Renew believes the starting point must be honesty about the challenges we face and the sacrifices and trade-offs required to overcome them. Our proposals to address these issues are not always easy to stomach but, we believe that by being honest about that fact, we can at least begin to rebuild the trust and open dialogue necessary for success.



## Brexit and Britain's Place in the World

The most pressing political issue facing the UK at present is Brexit. Renew believes that the interests of the UK, and those of our EU expat family, friends and neighbours are better served by being part of the EU than by leaving it. Accordingly, Renew will continue to work to ensure that the UK remains part of the EU and that currently means securing a new public vote so the people can provide informed consent to the question of the UK's continued membership of the EU.

We are not blind to the need for significant reform within the EU. Any organisation spanning 28 diverse nations will always require improvement. But we believe the right way to bring about that improvement is by staying inside the organisation and taking the role of a critical and insistent friend. Just as leaving the EU was never going to solve the UK's various social problems, staying inside, in and of itself, will not deliver the change so desperately needed. Renew takes the view that being in the EU is necessary to solve the UK's problems but is not sufficient on its own.

In adopting this stance on Brexit, the Renew Party is aware it will attract accusations of being in some way anti-democratic. We entirely reject those accusations. With everything we now know about how the Leave campaign was run and about the failure of the Conservative government to agree a model for Brexit even among its own Cabinet, it is clear that the case for Brexit has not been made. The principles of fairness sit at the heart of British life and dictate that the people must be given the final say whether to accept whatever Brexit deal has been agreed or to retain our full membership of the EU.

Whatever the result of the current negotiations, the EU remains our largest and closest trading partner with whom we have considerable ties. A long-term goal of Renew is to ensure that this relationship remains friendly, integrated and collaborative for our society and our economic future. Renew will support the continued free movement of people between the UK and EU countries. Such free movement also benefits all UK citizens wishing to work, travel, live or retire throughout the EU. We will continue to work with the EU on international law and order in order to protect the safety and security of our nation.



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Safety  
and Security



## Addressing Insecurity

Feelings of insecurity take many forms and come from many different areas of our lives. Without a safe and secure community, we might not have the conditions for secure employment, decent homes and the opportunity to thrive. Without strong enforcement of law and order, we worry that our families, homes and communities might be at risk. When we are taken out of our comfort zones by major life events such as redundancy or relocation (increasingly frequent occurrences in the modern, flexible economy) and forced to comply with bureaucratic systems under penalty of sanction for any error made, feelings of security can evaporate. Addressing the multiple causes of insecurity requires action on a number of fronts. We need to invest in frontline policing, quality housing and national infrastructure to create better links between rural and urban areas. We must try new approaches to tackle the root causes of homelessness and poverty. At the national and international level, we must prioritise use of diplomacy and soft power, while also investing in appropriate military capabilities to secure our future in the face of uncertain global threats.

Limited access to affordable housing is widely accepted as a significant and pressing problem in modern Britain. It is driven in the main by high house prices and the inadequate number of homes built every year, but there are other factors. The problem is not uniform across the country. Regional concentration around London, the South East and our other major cities, reflects too few opportunities in the UK's regions. House prices of almost eight times earnings across England and Wales hide huge regional variations. In specific areas of the country, there is some evidence that unusual pressures have arisen contributing to significant impacts on house prices. This includes the use of Central London property as a store of value by UK and overseas buyers and resistance to development in some communities. To address this problem, we must also address access to social housing. Renew will concentrate on improving housing security for the long-term. A surprisingly small 5.9% of the UK is currently built on; if we were to build on 2% of the remaining "green" land, it would solve the housing shortage for the next 100 years.

Economic insecurity, meanwhile, needs to be tackled through a renaissance of the UK's technical industries. Innovative new technologies such as clean energy, digital services and robotics will be the bedrock of this new economic era. We will find the best ways to harness these new technologies to create additional GDP, generating billions in additional revenue for the Exchequer. We will not be afraid to intervene when dominant companies threaten the growth of smaller ones through restrictive monopolies, particularly in an evolving digital economy not yet used to dealing with the challenges presented by Silicon Valley corporations.

Meanwhile the development of tax policy in the UK over past decades has been inconsistent and incoherent. The UK tax system is overbearing and complex, there have been numerous policy reversals, and many areas most needing reform have been not been addressed due to political weakness. Renew will press for a thorough overhaul to increase clarity and equity.

### **Renew will**

Encourage house building and a more stable housing sector by:

- Establishing a government owned 'Crown Corporation' (similar to those used in Canada) tasked with developing and delivering housing
- Increasing investment in communities near proposed developments where there have been significant increases in housing density
- Reviewing legislation to enable government or industrial sites to be developed into housing for key workers
- Reviewing long-term tenancy and leasehold legislation, so that people have power over their homes and better defence against exploitative tenancy agreements and rogue managing agents

Improve planning powers for local authorities by:

- Reviewing practices in Local Planning Authorities (LPAs)
- Enabling higher Council Tax on properties left empty for prolonged periods
- Providing local authorities with greater autonomy to borrow money in order to build new social and affordable housing
- Clamping down on the abuse of the Viability Assessment mechanism by developers when building social and affordable housing
- Investigating ways of allowing local people to invest in local building projects for low-risk, steady returns
- Supporting local action to encourage civic renewal in our high streets and restore pride in our cities, towns and villages

Ensure a proper regulatory response to developments in the modern job market by:

- Addressing the power imbalance of exclusive 'zero hours' contracts
- Incentivising business to provide, support and encourage employee wellness schemes
- Better enforcing the National Minimum Wage in order to prevent undercutting of UK wages
- Tightening-up rules on 'self-employment' status to prevent abuse and the undermining of employee's rights
- Challenging the way unemployment statistics are recorded and reported by government so they better reflect the impact of self-employment and 'platform economy' jobs on headline figures

Reframe our Police and Criminal Justice System by:

- Increasing funding to the police to reverse the decline in police numbers, prioritising the presence of police on the streets whilst supporting innovative technology to fight crime
- Bringing together multi-agency teams so their collective expertise can be brought to bear on the upstream drivers of violent crime in urban centres
- Investing in communities most affected by violent and gang crime in order to provide opportunities for those young people most at risk
- Reviewing existing legislation to increase efficiency in the criminal justice system and reduce the unplanned and unstructured extension of criminal justice legislation beyond the purpose for which it was originally intended.
- Taking steps to legalise cannabis use, thereby removing it from the black market and reducing the power of drugs gangs, potentially raising significant funds to invest in public services hollowed out by austerity
- Reviewing sentencing guidelines in order to prioritise schemes that benefit communities for certain non-violent crimes
- Reorganising arrangements for the sentencing and rehabilitation of offenders so they are focussed much more tightly on ensuring prior offenders have no incentive to return to crime

Seek to create new economic opportunities by:

- Rebalancing our service-based economy through 'new industrialisation', creating new innovative industries that will rejuvenate towns and cities
- Investing in infrastructure around the country, away from London and the south east
- Prioritising reforms that increase GDP in the immediate term without requiring government funding, such as greater access to skilled labour
- Aiming to ensure our public finances over the medium to long-term are within a debt to GDP ratio of 60% (currently around 85%) and annual deficits up to 3% of GDP (currently approx 2.5%)
- Creating opportunity for additional spending by maintaining the deficit at 1-2% of GDP rather than running a surplus

Review our tax system by:

- Developing easy to use digital platforms to reduce the administrative burden for everyone calculating and paying taxes, both individuals and corporations
- Looking to reduce the tax code, making it simpler and more streamlined
- Prioritising low taxes for small business owners, recognising the importance of enterprise in delivering innovation and economic growth
- Entering into agreements with international partners to tax large technology companies (Apple, Google, Amazon etc.) more effectively, so they make a fair contribution to the country's infrastructure
- Reviewing the effectiveness of tax evasion laws, both monetary and non monetary, focussing on what works internationally and tackling cross-border avoidance and evasion
- Regularly informing the public about the level of evasion, breaking it down by sector, and showing the consequences for public services

Reinforce our national security by:

- Investing in capabilities designed to counter the threat posed by hybrid warfare, which requires innovative, agile solutions and requires a fundamental rethink of national security institutions
- Re-examining the advantages and disadvantages of existing and planned military capabilities, setting out a roadmap to ensure our defence forces are modern, credible, robust, and ready to deal with the diverse challenges presented around the world today
- Supporting both the Modernising Defence Programme, which whilst current underway has unfortunately had delays to its delivery, and our nuclear programme as part of a package for protecting our national security
- Revisiting inefficient procurement processes and the poor management of major projects

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Health  
and Social Care



## Addressing Ill-Health

Renew aims to enhance the life expectancy and health of UK citizens in the most fair, efficient and optimised way. We love the inspirational principles on which the NHS operates but wish to stabilise it. Over the coming years, research suggests that the NHS's budget will need to rise just to maintain the current level of service. The majority of financial pressures arise from changes to population health, technology, pay and policy decisions. The number of people receiving treatment for chronic illness is increasing, attributable in part to the UK's ageing population. However, the prevalence of other conditions such as COPD, lung cancer, and various cardiovascular illnesses is most heavily influenced by lifestyle factors such as smoking, alcohol misuse, obesity and lack of physical activity.

Our solutions are aimed at dealing with demand and the need for explicit choices about what is provided by the NHS, in mental health provisions and how we balance the needs of an ageing population and prioritise disease prevention. We must focus on reorganisation and better practices, making NHS bureaucracy more efficient and accountable. We must also accelerate work being done to deliver a genuinely integrated health and social care systems.

These problems are compounded by failures of the state elsewhere. A hospital is frequently the only state organ that cannot turn you away. When our community institutions fail, the NHS is often left to pick up the pieces. This is not just tragic for the people who suffer as a result, but is also far and away the most expensive way of dealing with these issues. For example, today one of the biggest challenges facing the NHS is access to social care, with frail patients stuck in hospital for want of a place elsewhere.



Though the Better Care Fund was an initial attempt to move towards integration, we now need nothing less than a fundamental reform of the funding of health and social care services and citizens' entitlements to publicly funded support to address these problems.

Successive governments have pretended there are easy answers to these challenges, whether through funding or massive reorganisations. They were wrong. Solving this problem to deliver a sustainable NHS free at the point of delivery will require a number of often painful choices, coupled with clear resolve.

## Renew will

Deliver improved services by:

- Amalgamating the NHS and social care, driving fundamental improvements. The problems facing the NHS relating to social care do not originate solely from inadequate funding, but also from the lack of alignment between the two services
- Placing staff at the forefront of developing the service, prioritising long-term employment, allowing flexibility within contracts so that staff can improve productivity by looking after their wellbeing, and working to reduce the fiscal burden of contractors
- Revisiting management structures to help to streamline them
- Delivering funding increases in line or above current plans, creating additional tax revenue by legalising and regulating the sale of cannabis
- Unwinding PFI contracts, shifting the debt to central government, where it can be more cheaply funded
- Saving money through streamlining NHS procurement procedures in order to ensure maximum efficiency. Arguably, this could be done by a single, centralised body, possibly within the the Crown Commercial Service, with the responsibility of receiving and evaluating all initiatives submitted to it, regardless of origin or level of technology involved. It would then assess which should be applied regionally or nationally and in which sectors, and introduce a programme mandated to introduce some and strongly recommend others. A task force should also be created to support implementation in organisations that lack the capability.
- Rejecting Brexit and the impact it has had on our NHS in terms of people and procurement with rising import costs post-Brexit posing a significant threat to purchasing savings
- Explicitly asking the public to discuss the choices that will need to be made about the priorities of the NHS, given that it is impossible for the NHS to provide all services to all people
- Reviewing the disparity in funding between physical and mental health
- Seeking to centralise specialist services where this can improve patient outcome

Provide for a better quality of life by:

- Making assisted living programs more widely available through community care programs
- Reviewing funding models to eliminate the end-of-life lottery, where people suffering from some diseases must pay for large portions of their care, while others suffering from different diseases pay for none, possibly achieved through reforms to Inheritance Tax or funding models similar to those proposed by the Dilnot Commission
- Considering a means-tested Long-Term Care system where adults over 65 are eligible for free personal care in their own homes, including personal hygiene, food preparation and mobility. If means testing was introduced simultaneously to winter fuel payments, this could yield enough to introduce free personal care.
- Providing investments that might reduce costs in the future, i.e. by allowing hospitals to establish social and end-of-life care facilities to take pressure from hospital beds
- Solving the problem of bed blocking, particularly problematic for the elderly, for whom long hospital stays can be detrimental to health. Increasing their long-term care requirements should begin with implementing more accurate data systems that take full account of the problem.

Support new approaches by:

- Coordinating services to deal with particular areas of demand. Alcohol abuse for example can be treated in specialist 'Drink Tanks' and expanding Urgent Care Centres and GP surgeries in hospitals to reduce strain on emergency care and ambulance services.
- Adopting a rational, science-led approach to drug policy and treating drug abuse as a health rather than a criminal issue, licensing the supply of the least harmful drugs and generating revenue to be ploughed back into services, such as mental health

Harness the potential of data-led innovation by:

- Exploring the benefits of Precision Public Health, and innovative methodologies (smart monitoring) of detection. Careful analysis of treatment costs relative to the cost of prevention and the proportion of the population that develop certain conditions is necessary to determine the financial viability of prevention methods, but could prove worthwhile.
- Lowering running costs and improving efficiency by harnessing a wave of advanced medical technology and innovation. For example, 'telehealth' allows both the remote monitoring of conditions such as diabetes and heart diseases and can be provided by devices in the home
- Learning from the intersection between the NHS and community services. There are examples of high quality collaboration between social care, community services and hospitals where effective collection and analysis of relevant data has improved services and costs

Prioritising prevention by:

- Investing a greater proportion of the NHS budget on preventative measures, rather than treatment, and precision medicine as a smarter way to approach a more sustainable health system
- Seeking to the long-term nature of the investment in public health which may have a profound effect if done efficiently, for example it is suggested that £1 investment in public health interventions is found to generate a £14 return
- Prioritising education around preventive healthcare programs for children, with health care packages monitoring physical development as well as psychosocial, speech development and emotional skills through regular help and support

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Open-  
Mindedness



## Addressing the lack of openness

We want a country that is open and secure. These two things are not mutually exclusive. We believe we need to be open to new ideas and the application of new technology to some modern-day challenges.

Questions of openness in this context inevitably raise the subject of immigration. We believe immigration is a positive force for the UK. But we also know that it is not an unconditional right and must be controlled. We endorse the robust use of existing immigration controls, including some that have been available for governments to use for many years but that have not been.

New immigrants bring a diverse labour force into the country which has benefited our economy and our wider society - in agriculture, the arts, business, education, the NHS, science and technology.

EU immigrants have paid more in taxes than they have drawn in benefits. Many immigrants are working-age people, and their presence has helped reduce the ratio of retired to working people. It is vital that immigrants are treated like all other UK citizens - no worse, no better. Like every area of public life, there must be a balance of rights and responsibilities. Renew's values allow us to formulate a coherent response to immigration that is not hampered by any rigid political ideology and can be crafted to enhance the opportunities and experience of both immigrants and hosts.

Openness is also relevant to the increasing amount of personal data produced and collected every day. In a society shaped by technological connectivity, online rights are essential in any democracy. Corporate influence on governments has never been greater; Renew will ensure that the civil rights of UK citizens are maintained and reinforced. By using ethical AI to regulate the sale of personal data, we can create a legal framework for digital transparency fit for the 21st century. Citizens need to know that their private data and personal rights are protected in a rapidly changing world. We want a clear and transparent path that reveals what businesses - and the government - is doing with our data.

Openness implies a freedom to speak one's thoughts. Free speech is often said to be under threat. Renew believes in the importance of free speech and will work to protect it in the real world and online. Renew does not believe people need a right of protection against being offended (short of behaviour that would constitute an offence). Renew will build on the liberal history of the UK to protect minorities against discrimination and enhance equal opportunities for all.

We recognize that such activities and infringements can be undertaken by businesses, social organizations, private individuals - and the government. Freedom of expression and our economic, social and cultural rights depend on our ability to engage with technology in an open and confident way.

### **Renew will**

Concentrate on protecting and supporting communities by:

- Investing a greater proportion of the NHS budget on preventative measures, rather than treatment, and precision medicine as a smarter way to approach a more sustainable health system
- Looking to the long-term nature of the investment in public health which may have a profound effect if done efficiently
- Prioritising education around preventive healthcare programs for children, with health care packages monitoring physical development as well as psychosocial, speech development and emotional skills through regular help and support

Protect our data by:

- Working to guarantee citizens' rights on the internet, and extending digital education and technological literacy, working with large tech firms to support training programmes
- Innovating how we address use and abuse of our data. Whilst grateful for GDPR, the evolving nature of technology (especially biometric) and uncertainties associated with the GDPR's treatment of biometric data warrants attention and regulation.

Supporting and reviewing the Overseas Aid budget by:

- Maintaining meaningful and worthwhile foreign aid while ensuring that UK taxpayers can be guaranteed a valuable return on their investment through demonstrable improvements to development and quality of life in recipient countries
- Revisiting an unproductive aid provision strategy

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Investment



## Addressing Carelessness and Incompetence

Many of the issues raised with us on the Listen to Britain tour boiled down to incompetent or careless decisions made by politicians. People are tired of paying the price for bad decisions made without due regard for the longer-term impacts, despite compelling evidence to the contrary or simply because they were politically expedient. The failure of governments to properly fund education was seen as a particularly perverse decision. The fundamental future success of our people and our country is wrapped up in a single issue. Cutting corners on education funding now sets our young people up to fail in the future and hard-wires lower productivity into our future economy.

Major change is needed, including an end to austerity because it is holding back our lives. We must have investment in the broader infrastructure of skills, training, education, prepare and encourage the fourth industrial revolution with AI and the skills/tech connectivity needed whilst also focussing on national transport networks. Research and development is the foundation of our current living standard - we must continue to invest in that which makes us stronger and smarter. To guarantee our future wellbeing and to master the environmental and social challenges of tomorrow, technical and scientific progress is key. Our science policy aims to create an even more innovative and competitive research landscape that at the same time incorporates a number of key values.



Renew knows that climate change is a critical issue facing the UK and the world. Clean air is a human right. Green issues are as important for global balance as they are diverse, encompassing various issues such as clean energy, climate change, the circular economy, sustainable farming and food processing, habitat destruction, air pollution, environmental protection, pollution prevention and biodiversity.

Strong commitments and actions from all stakeholders are needed to achieve the targets set by the Paris Climate Agreement. Ultimately, our vision is to live in a world in which climate responsibility is part of the solution. We envisage a world where individuals, corporations and public entities take more responsibility for the future of our planet. Economic profit and growth should not prevail over the wellbeing of people and the environment.

We also recognize the vital need for the UK to have cheap, secure and sustainable sources of energy for our economic growth. Moving to a low carbon-producing world to reduce climate change has many challenges but also opportunities. It also requires a diverse range of public and private sector activities. Renew believes, moreover, that moving to a low-carbon world will bring with it a wide range of commercial opportunities. The UK has no long-term sustainable option but to invest in renewable energy sources and we must provide international leadership in the global efforts to reduce climate change.

We have a responsibility to pass on a healthier planet to the next generation, ending the cycle of environmental damage that has continued for too long.

## Renew will

Invest in the future by:

- Providing a major boost to primary and secondary school budgets (circa 30%) using proceeds from various funding streams including corporation tax, fuel duty freeze, vat from online trading and tech tax
- Establishing an effective and widespread apprenticeship/vocational/skills training programme, publicly and independently monitored, to realise potential and to develop the necessary skills for jobs, productivity and growth
- Looking to lifelong learning programmes. As our population ages in relative terms, we will have a great source of expertise and capability leaving the jobs market that could be used to assist new firms, new companies.
- Ensuring training and skills development in school for life's challenges, supporting youth programmes and school curriculums that promote peaceful conflict resolution and life skills, mentoring and jobs for youth at risk
- Re-establishing the early childhood sure start programmes that provided the foundations for education

Incentivise the social contract by:

- Creating a Community Action Service programme, a citizen service for young people consisting of one year of social, community or military service for young adults. This will bring a wide range of benefits to the youth across the country and across social divides, providing training and practical qualifications, improving communication, leadership and teamwork skills, facilitating the transition to adulthood and encouraging young people to experience life around the country
- Seeking to engage our retired or retiring people through a volunteering scheme (e.g. schools, hospitals, social support services) and potentially rewarding this service through credits that might be invested in and spent on activities

Prioritise environmental sustainability by:

- Investing in infrastructure and sustainable, renewable solutions to energy needs, developing investment in green technologies, for example through subsidies and tax incentives or by incorporating green technologies into new developments
- Borrowing for longer-term investment in our infrastructure to help create greater wealth through technology-enabled developments, such as: rolling out electric charging points nationally, increasing wind investment as an island nation and reviewing HS2
- Reducing the many different types of pollution in the UK to encourage businesses to invest in creating clean jobs, and increasing recycling in businesses and households
- Supporting the implementation of a New Clean Air Act to help treat the epidemic of air pollution
- Allowing delivery companies to reduce road tax liability by ensuring their vehicle fleets meet best-in-class emissions standards
- Recognising that nuclear energy has a lower carbon footprint, but being cautious about encouraging investment in major new nuclear power-generating facilities. New, potentially smaller, nuclear plants may mitigate some of these problems.

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Compassion





## Addressing Lack of Compassion

Many aspects of our implied social contract have broken down. It is said that a society can be judged by the way it cares for its most vulnerable. If that is true, our current society is failing badly.

One very clear theme in the 'Listen to Britain' responses was the need to address the recent explosion of disrespectful and abusive commentary in public life.

People told us they did not like the fact that MPs and others who expressed political views online often faced responses that, at best, were angry and disrespectful and, at worst, racist, misogynistic or anti-semitic. Often the worst of this abuse came from anonymous online accounts. They told us this was undermining the vigorous debate necessary in a functioning democracy and was creating a strong disincentive for people to participate in politics.

People told us that they were concerned about aspects of the Work Capability Assessments now at the heart of the benefits system, particularly the way they were sometimes applied by front-line staff in large private companies with insufficient understanding of the vast range of medical conditions they were asked to judge. They felt these procedures had been designed to be unnecessarily adversarial, assuming claimants were in some way out to fiddle the system until it could be proved otherwise. As a nation, we should be able to show more compassion and respect to the most vulnerable in society.

Many of the responses on our Listen to Britain tour expressed concern that the number of people living on the streets was rising again. At a very fundamental level, people believed that a country with the fifth or sixth largest economy in the world should be ashamed of having the levels of on-street homelessness that the UK has.

We heard too from women aggrieved at the arbitrary, blunt way changes to pension entitlement had been implemented by government, leaving those women facing a significant reduction in quality of life and no time to do anything to avoid it. Members of the public understand that demographic trends mean government must sometimes make tough decisions on matters like this but they do not expect those decisions to inflict unavoidable pain and misery on a large section of society.

### **Renew will**

Help by:

- Ensuring children are taught the skills necessary to assess the information they receive and to challenge it in a constructive way
- Working with social media companies to end the use of anonymous social media accounts
- Regulating social media to remove the fake news stories that often drive the most vitriolic exchanges
- Ensuring those who design and administer public services have a duty to demonstrate that they operate in a way that is respectful and compassionate

Tackle homelessness by:

- Trialling a 'housing first' scheme, like Norway's, which provides homes for the homeless and looks to create savings in other services
- Committing to the eradication of street homelessness before 2030

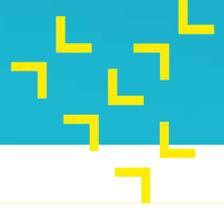
Challenge unfairness by:

- Supporting Women Against Pension Inequality (WASPI's) campaign to review the current plans to change pension entitlement for women born in the 1950s
- Boosting the Military Covenant because the selfless sacrifice the armed forces make for those they will never know is the epitome of duty and should be repaid accordingly

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Restoring  
Democracy

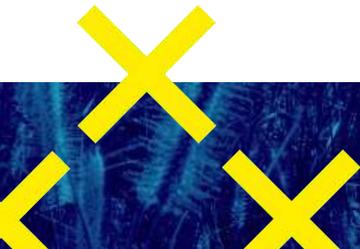


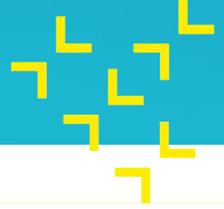


## Restoring Democracy

Our system of politics rewards confrontation, not collaboration. These systems need radical reform to get the best out of candidates and MPs. Whilst vigorous debate is critical to the evolution of our society, it does not need to become personal, crude and nasty. Renew wants to see systematic change, a positive disruption to our political structures by reducing bloated bureaucracy at the local, regional and national levels. We will distribute power so that individuals feel that their vote matters and their representatives are held accountable. We must change the way it works so that our votes count.

Renew stands for systematic change in the UK's democratic process. We support electoral reform to make representation in parliament proportional to the amount of votes cast for each party. This means the abolition of the first-past-the-post voting system.

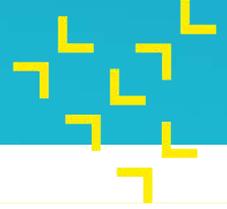




Renew believes that the UK's political system must be changed in order to give the UK the best chance of having governments that choose the right policies and implement them. We have clear plans around conduct, expectations, quality and updating the old parliamentary ways – the private members bills that can be stopped by the shouting of one word, irrespective of how well thought-through the policy is, or indeed voting by proxy that is then reneged on.

Currently the majority of the electorate is, for the most part, ignored. Many people do not vote because government does not make much difference to their lives. Many votes in effect do not make a difference given the first-past-the-post voting system in the UK. The result is that policies are poorly thought-out, not benchmarked for success and not monitored once they are implemented.





## Renew will

Reform the system by:

- Changing the voting system, encouraging real competition between political parties, so that votes count in elections
- Potentially introducing compulsory voting with a minimal fine for abstention in an age of declining turnout, increasing representation in under-represented socio-economic groups and reducing political corruption
- Introducing processes to ensure a larger measure of formal policy deliberation outside the executive is established, improving pre-legislative scrutiny in parliament and formally consulting organised public interests and individuals
- Improving the systems that monitor and audit government delivery of its policies

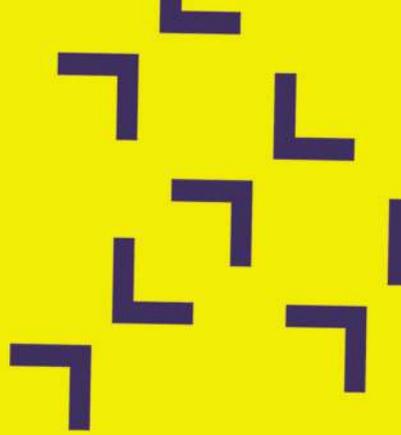
Change the power dynamics by:

- Allocating the power to take political decisions to the democratic level closest to where they will have their effect. This will require devolution of power from central government to regions, cities and local councils. With this devolution must also come the ability to raise more local taxes for local expenditure.

Introduce transparency by:

- Creating new national standards for candidates across all parties, so that the public understand the process and can rebuild trust in our representatives
- Introducing mandatory DBS checks for all candidates, so that transparency is part of the process
- Creating consumer protection for political adverts and marketing, similar to advertising and marketing standards.







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New Party | New Hope