



## Brownfield and Regeneration

All five parties make commitments to prioritise brownfield land. UKIP's earlier plans for a UK Brownfield Agency, which would issue brownfield bonds raising £5bn, did not make the manifesto.

**Conservatives.** Require councils to ensure 90% of suitable brownfield sites have planning permission for housing by 2020. £1 billion brownfield fund. London Land Commission to identify and release all surplus public brownfield land. Housing Zones to deliver 95,000 new homes on brownfield sites.

**Greens.** Minimise encroachment onto undeveloped greenfield sites wherever possible by reusing previously developed sites that have fallen into disuse. Parcel big regeneration sites into smaller plots through the custom build model.

**Labour.** Introduce a strengthened brownfield first policy making sure that as much building as possible takes place on previously developed land.

**Lib Dems.** Ambitious targets for development on unwanted public sector sites with new local authority powers. Prioritise development on brownfield and town centre sites.

**UKIP.** Exempt first £250,000 of new homes built on brownfield land from stamp duty. Environment Agency to list sites on National Brownfield Sites Register. Enhanced new homes bonus to councils for brownfield homes. Grants to developers carrying out essential remediation work and for indemnity insurance. 'Seaside Town Status' for coastal areas in need of regeneration.

## Environment Goes Backstage

We've come a long way since the run up to the 2010 general election. Way back then, politicians were then trying to outgun each other with pledges to protect the environment. The coalition government began with a phrase that came to haunt David Cameron – he declared he would run the 'greenest government ever'. Indeed, the 2015 Conservative manifesto declares: 'We have been the greenest government ever.'

An analysis by Nesta shows that environmental themes and climate change have barely featured in the debates leading up to this election . Despite the lack of headlines and tweets, the parties have made a lot of pledges that will affect housing, planning and the environment.

This eBulletin looks at the policies most relevant to the work of CPRE and its allies.

## National Planning Policy Framework

The Greens and UKIP both pledge to abolish the NPPF. The other parties are silent.

**Conservatives.** No mention.

**Greens.** Repeal the NPPF and in particular its presumption in favour of development.

**Labour.** No mention.

**Lib Dems.** No mention.

**UKIP.** Replace the NPPF with national planning guidelines to prioritise brownfield sites for housing and protect the green belt.

## Green Belt

The green belt barely features in the manifestos.

**Conservatives.** We will protect the green belt.

**Greens.** No mention.

**Labour.** We will maintain current protections for the green belt but respect local decision making over green belt configuration.

**Lib Dems.** We have fought to protect the green belt and AONBs.

**UKIP.** Genuinely protect the green belt.

## Permitted Development Rights

In the last days of the coalition government, permitted development rights were extended for agricultural conversions and restricted for betting offices and payday loan shops. Office to residential conversion rights will end in 2016 unless extended after the election .

**Conservatives.** We have already introduced planning controls to prevent the further proliferation of high street betting shops.

**Greens.** Give local authorities planning powers to restrict payday lenders.

**Labour.** New powers for councils to require some shops to apply for planning permission to restrict the number of payday lenders or other shops that are clustering on a single high street.

**Lib Dems.** End office to residential permitted development rights.

**UKIP.** Relax planning regulations to allow conversion of off-high road commercial and office space and other buildings to affordable residential use. Allow offices to be converted to nursery facilities under permitted rights.

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## Permissions and Appeals

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*The Greens and Lib Dems are promising a community right of appeal and want to restrict developers' rights of appeal. UKIP will allow communities to overturn permission for large developments by referendum. The Greens want to ban biodiversity offsetting.*

**Conservatives.** Ensure that local people have more control over planning.

**Greens.** Restrict ability of the secretary of state to call in planning applications. Developers only to appeal where there has been an error in the planning process. Community right of appeal where a development is non-compliant with a neighbourhood or local plan. Strengthen local authority powers to prevent changes of use for important community facilities such as local shops, pubs and meeting halls. Prohibit developers from being allowed to destroy unique habitats through biodiversity offsetting.

**Labour.** Use it or lose it powers for councils to force developers to build.

**Lib Dems.** Third-party right of appeal where decisions contradict local plans or a local plan that is emerging and has undergone substantive consultation. Not allowing developer appeals for decisions in line with the local plan. Pilot new planning conditions to ensure local communities benefit from increased housing supply.

**UKIP.** Give local people final say on major planning decisions – such as out-of-town large-scale supermarket developments, wind turbines, incinerators, solar farms and major housing developments – through the use of binding local referenda triggered by the signatures of 5% of electors within a planning authority area, collected within three months. Merge planning and building control departments in local authorities.

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## Local Planning

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*Planning is dry stuff and local plans have failed to get much of a mention in the manifestos. Both the Lib Dems and the Greens talk of bigger than local planning. Labour has omitted to mention the Right to Grow policy it launched at the end 2013.*

**Conservatives.** Encourage communities engaged in neighbourhood planning to complete the process and assist others to draw up their own plans.

**Greens.** Work collaboratively to develop national spatial plans. Reduce parking spaces in new developments.

**Labour.** Give local communities new powers to provide the homes they need, in the places they want to live. Promote access to green spaces in local planning.

**Lib Dems.** Local authorities in the driving seat for plan-led development, required to make a plan for 15 years of housing need, working collaboratively with neighbouring councils where necessary to identify sites. Strengthen the duty to cooperate to help authorities – like Cambridge, Oxford and Luton – with insufficient space within the local authority boundary to meet housing demand to grow, through development on sites beyond the local authority boundaries. Update planning law to introduce the concept of 'landscape scale planning'.

**UKIP.** Free local authorities from government-imposed minimum housing numbers. Reverse current policies of facilitating large-scale rural residential developments. Promote smaller 6-12 unit developments in rural areas to extend existing villages.

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## Town Centres and Retail

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*The shelves are fairly empty here with the Greens having the only significant policy, promoting business conservation areas.*

**Conservatives.** Give more say to local traders on issues such as minor planning applications, cleaning and parking.

**Greens.** Give local authorities planning powers to support local shops and businesses through planning policies including business conservation areas. Ensure basic shops are within walking distance in all urban areas. Restrict the number of payday lenders and restricting the power of supermarkets.

**UKIP.** Push local authorities to offer at least 30 minutes free parking in town centres, high streets and shopping parades.

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## Garden Cities

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*There is strong backing for garden cities from the Conservatives, Labour and Lib Dems, with the latter targeting the Oxford to Cambridge arc for up to five new towns.*

**Conservatives.** Locally-led garden cities and towns in places where communities want them, such as Ebbsfleet and Bicester.

**Greens.** No mention.

**Labour.** We will start to build a new generation of garden cities.

**Lib Dems.** At least ten new garden cities in England, in areas where there is local support. Up to five major new settlements along a Garden Cities Railway between Oxford and Cambridge. Encourage rural authorities to follow these principles on a smaller scale to develop new garden villages or suburbs.

**UKIP.** No mention.

## Housing

*Housing features strongly in all the manifestos. Many of the pledges relate to the demand side, including discounts and priorities for first time buyers, help with mortgages and sales of social housing. The summary here is limited to the supply side of housing.*

**Conservatives.** No housing total. 275,000 additional affordable homes by 2020. Double the number of custom-built and self-built homes by 2020. A new Right to Build, requiring councils to allocate land to local people to build or commission their own home.

**Greens.** Provide 500,000 social rented homes to high sustainability standards by 2020. Bring 350,000 empty homes back into use through Empty Property Use Orders. Reduce VAT on housing renovation to 5%.

**Labour.** At least 200,000 new homes a year by 2020. Future Homes Fund to increase housing supply. Implement the [Lyons Review](#). First-time buyers who have lived in a local authority area for more than three years get first call on up to half of homes built locally. Build more affordable homes by prioritising capital investment for housing and by reforming the council house financing system. Local authorities powers to reduce the number of empty homes. All homes zero carbon by 2020. Warm Home Standard for social housing. Offer 100% subsidised energy efficiency measures to social tenants.

**Lib Dems.** Increase the rate of house building to 300,000 a year. Stronger support for self-build. Planning conditions to tackle 'buy to leave' empty investment properties. Councils to levy 200% council tax on second homes where appropriate. Vacant Building Credit restricted to longer term empty buildings. Greater borrowing powers for local authorities. Intermediate Housing Fund. Ban on hard to heat rented homes. Ten year £100 council tax discount for insulated homes. Exemptions to the Zero Carbon Standard for new homes removed.

**UKIP.** One million homes on brownfield sites by 2025. Statutory duty on councils to bring empty properties back into use within their broader housing and planning strategies. 50% more council tax on homes empty for more than two years. Require a proportion of self-build plots to be provided in all large developments. Government land released for affordable housing. Proceeds from Right to Buy used for new community housing.

## Green Space and Countryside

*The Conservatives promise better maps and more trees, Labour and the Greens better access to green space. There is not much from UKIP. The Lib Dems promise National Nature Parks.*

**Conservatives.** A programme of pocket parks for towns and cities. £3 billion from CAP to enhance England's countryside over the next five years. Free, comprehensive maps of all open-access green space to make it easier to access. Public forests and woodland kept in trust for the nation. Plant 11 million trees.

**Greens.** Aim to ensure through planning everyone lives within five minutes' walk of a green open space. Ensure local authorities have the resources to extend and maintain local parks. Introduce a nature improvement area in every town, city and county. Protect, expand, properly fund and improve non-car access to national parks. Improve the design of our cities to provide safer streets and public spaces. Promote landscape-scale conservation using reform of the CAP, improved agri-environment schemes and the planning system.

**Labour.** Bring nature closer to people by making public access to green spaces a priority. Keep forests in public ownership. Reform Forestry Commission so that new woodland is created closer to the places where more people live. Retain Natural Capital Committee to protect and improve wildlife habitats and green spaces. Make these spaces an important part of our thriving tourism industry.

**Lib Dems.** Hand countryside and green spaces on to the next generation in a better condition than when we were children. New National Nature Parks chosen by local communities to protect up to a million acres of accessible green space. Significantly increase accessible green space. Complete the coastal path. Expand Right to Roam. Implement recommendations of Independent Panel on Forestry on public forests. Plant tree for every child born. Ensure new developments improve rather than diminish access to green spaces.

**UKIP.** Not allow countryside to be swamped by over-development. Our countryside must be preserved so it can be enjoyed by future generations. Abolish excessive and unnecessary EU regulations and directives, keeping those necessary to protect our environment, or replacing them with more appropriate controls.

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## Farming and Food

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*There are very different views on which way farming should go. All parties want reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. The Greens and Lib Dems want more environmentally farming while the Conservatives back GM and agri-tech.*

**Conservatives.** Long-term vision for the future of British farming, working with industry to develop a 25 year plan to grow more, buy more and sell more British food. Treble the number of apprenticeships in food, farming and agri-tech. Further reform of CAP. Great British Food Unit to help trademark and promote local foods around the world. Champion Groceries Code Adjudicator. Science-led approach on GM crops and pesticides. 25-year strategy to eradicate bovine TB. Protect hunting, shooting and fishing. Free vote on repeal of Hunting Act.

**Greens.** Moratorium on GMs. Seek to reform the CAP. Reform national agri-environment schemes to prioritise and support farmers who farm sustainably and enhance biodiversity on farmed land with a variety of farming styles, methods and scales. All farm payments designed to protect the soil, reduce flood risk, conserve wildlife, improve water quality, increase recreation and assist carbon capture. Encourage Fairtrade and organic farming. Protect productive farmland from development. Reduce food imports and increase home and local food production where feasible. Localisation of the food chain and encourage direct sales via local markets. Work to reduce food waste. Move away from the intensification and industrialisation of animal farming. End badger cull.

**Labour.** Reform CAP. A world-leading food, farm and fisheries sector that creates better paid jobs and apprenticeships across the rural economy. Expand role of supermarkets watchdog. End badger cull.

**Lib Dems.** Set up commission and help for farmers on back to nature prevention schemes. CAP reform to remove production subsidies and promote environmentally sustainable food production. National Food Strategy to promote sustainable and local food. Greater scope for Grocers Code Adjudicator in getting farmers a fair price from supermarkets. Effective, science-led ways of controlling bovine TB including vaccines. Support extending existing cull pilots if they are shown to be effective, humane and safe. Review of governance of drainage.

**UKIP.** Prime agricultural land to be kept for its primary purpose, creating a secure food supply for Britain not housing. New UK Single Farm Payment on exit from EU will follow 2013 ELS rules. It will exclude unproductive land and have premiums for organic farming and rare breeds. Support research on GM and allow a free vote on GM farming. Introduce a pragmatic solution to distinguish between lamb and mutton at the abattoir.

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## Marine

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*The Conservatives' big idea is a UK Blue Belt around Britain's coast. All parties want more sustainable and localised fishing rights.*

**Conservatives.** Complete network of Marine Conservation Zones to create a UK Blue Belt of protected sites. Defend Common Fisheries Policy reforms. Devolve the management of North Sea fisheries to local communities.

**Greens.** Expand the UK's network of Marine Conservation Zones to create areas specifically for the protection of mobile species as well as reference areas off limits to fishing and other extractive activities. Ensure sustainable fishing policies. Fishing quota allocations should reward local sustainable fisheries.

**Labour.** Establish an ecologically coherent network of Marine Conservation Zones around the UK. Ensure that fishing quota allocation contributes to the restoration and maintenance of a thriving fishing industry, including revival of coastal communities and the protection of marine environment.

**Lib Dems.** An ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas with appropriate management by 2020. Implement reforms of the Common Fisheries Policy and a national plan for sustainable UK fisheries.

**UKIP.** Establish a 12-mile zone around our coastline for UK fishermen and a 200-mile exclusive economic zone under UK control. Ensure sea anglers and the under 10-metre boat fleet are represented on the Marine Management Organisation.

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## Biodiversity

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*The Conservatives join Labour and the Lib Dems in wanting to extend the role the Natural Capital Committee. The Greens wish to abolish biodiversity offsetting.*

**Conservatives.** Replace locally any biodiversity lost in the construction of High Speed 2. Extend Natural Capital Committee (NCC) though next parliament to develop a 25 year plan to restore the UK's biodiversity.

**Greens.** Local authorities to map local ecological networks. Prohibit developers destroying habitats through biodiversity offsetting. Encourage storing water in uplands through full river system management. Water management to be part of the rules for farming subsidies. Improve management of woodlands through new planting and the local use of sustainable woodland products. Help bees by reducing pesticide use, greening farming and improving planning guidelines to support bee habitats. Make bees a priority species in biodiversity strategies. Increase area of land offered long-term protection through the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives.

**Labour.** NCC to deliver a 25 year plan to reverse the decline of natural environment, tackle climate change and increase access to nature. A step-change in nature conservation building on the work of the Lawton review and empowering communities to protect and improve the natural environment. Ensure the development of coherent ecological networks to protect wildlife and reverse the decline of pollinators.

**Lib Dems.** Nature Act to put the NCC on a statutory footing, set natural capital targets, including on biodiversity, clean air and sustainable water. Empower the NCC to recommend actions to meet these targets. Measures to protect bees and pollinators, including legal protection for bumblebee nests. Bigger fines for environmental and wildlife crime.

**UKIP.** Match-fund grants made by local authorities towards rural capital projects.

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## Historic Environment

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*There are commitments to free museum and gallery entry but the historic environment gets scant attention in the manifestos.*

**Conservatives.** Build a tunnel where the A303 passes closest to Stonehenge.

**UKIP.** Planning policies to support historic buildings. Introduce a presumption in favour of conservation. Remove VAT from repairs to listed buildings. Dedicated Minister of State for Heritage and Tourism.

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## Sustainable Transport

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*The Lib Dems and Greens have the most detail here, with UKIP silent.*

**Conservatives.** Invest over £200 million to make cycling safer and double number of journeys made.

**Greens.** Decarbonise transport. Reduce need for car parking spaces by reducing car dependency and transferring trips to walking, cycling and public transport. Increase rates of walking, cycling and public transport by strengthening planning law to make best practice travel plans mandatory for workplaces, homes and other destinations. Ensure that all planning decisions have to take into account active travel and public transport implications. Smart ticketing. Road pricing for heavy lorries. More cycle parking. Make sure rural areas are not neglected. Develop networks of community and public transport to provide regular links to onward transport networks.

**Labour.** Reform transport system to provide more public control. City and county regions will have control over local transport systems to integrate trains, buses, trams and cycling into a single network. Promote cycling.

**Lib Dems.** Green Transport Act will ensure all major rail electrified by 2030; rail franchises have stronger focus on customers; and roll out of ultra-low emission zones; and promotion of driverless and electric vehicles. Continue **Total Transport Pilot**. Cycleway along HS2. Implement recommendations of **Get Britain Cycling**, including £10 a head a year on cycling. Bus funding and policy review, and five year investment plan. Support local regulation of buses. Low carbon buses. Smart ticketing. Ensure new developments promote walking, cycling, car sharing and public transport.

**UKIP.** No commitments.

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## Airports

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*Labour, the Conservatives and UKIP are waiting for the Airports Commission report before declaring on South East runways, though UKIP is backing Manston. The Lib Dems and Greens oppose any new runways.*

**Conservatives.** Will respond to the Airports Commission's final report.

**Greens.** Stop airport expansion. No new runways at either Heathrow or Gatwick. Ban night flying.

**Labour.** A swift decision on expanding airport capacity in London and the South East, balancing the need for growth and the environmental impact.

**Lib Dems.** Oppose any expansion of Heathrow, Stansted or Gatwick and any new airport in the Thames Estuary because of air and noise pollution. Carefully consider the conclusions of the Davies Review and advice from the Committee on Climate Change to develop a strategic airports policy for whole of the UK. No net increase in runways across the UK. Emissions from aviation must not undermine goal of a zero-carbon Britain by 2050.

**UKIP.** Respond to Airports Commission report in best interests of the country. Part of solution is to reopen Manston Airport.

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## Railways

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*There is a clear divide between the Conservatives, Lib Dems and Labour, who all commit to building HS2, and the Greens and UKIP who will scrap the rail line.*

**Conservatives.** Build HS2. £38 billion investment in railway network to 2019. Electrify main rail routes. Develop High Speed 3. Build Northern Hub. New trains for the North. Push forward with plans for Crossrail 2. Smart ticketing. Control fare rises.

**Greens.** Scrap HS2. Bring rail services into public ownership and control. Electrify more track. New rolling stock

**Labour.** Build HS2. Review franchising for rail. A new National Rail body. £36bn over five years. Electrification of main lines.

**Lib Dems.** Build HS2. More people to travel after rail upgrades. All new rail franchises to have stronger focus on customers. Complete East-West rail, connecting up Oxford and Cambridge and catalysing major new housing development. Shift more freight from road to rail. Change planning law to ensure new developments provide good freight access to retail, manufacturing and warehouse facilities.

**UKIP.** Scrap HS2.

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## Roads

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*The Tories give a lot of detail, much of it already announced. The other parties say very little.*

**Conservatives.** Invest £15 billion in roads including over £6 billion in the northern road network Upgrade A1, M62, M1 and A555 link road. Improve connections to the South West, including M5, A358, A30 and A303. Add 1,300 extra lane miles to roads, improve over 60 problem junctions and fix around 18m potholes between 2015 and 2021. Almost every car and van to be a zero emission vehicle by 2050. Invest £300 million in cutting light pollution from new roads, more tunnelling, better noise barriers and helping to restore lost habitat.

**Greens.** Work for a road transport system that results in zero deaths or serious injuries, including 20mph limits. Introduce speed limits of 20 mph in villages and 40 mph on rural roads

**Labour.** £300m to fix potholes. Support long-term investment in strategic roads and address the neglect of local roads.

**Lib Dems.** Emissions standards. Reform vehicle excise duty and MOT, support for driverless and electric vehicles.

**UKIP.** Scrap EU requirement for new cars to be fitted with the eCall system. Remove road tolls where possible.

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## Other Infrastructure

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**Conservatives.** Several infrastructure commitments in line with the outgoing government's plans. £100 billion in infrastructure over the next Parliament. 1,400 new flood defence schemes protect 300,000 homes. Invest £13 billion in transport for the North.

**Greens.** A new Green National Infrastructure programme, including a free nationwide retrofit insulation programme aiming for Passivhaus standards, concentrating on areas where fuel poverty is most serious.

**Labour.** Independent National Infrastructure Commission (NIC). Flood defence schemes prioritised by NIC.

**Lib Dems.** 10-year rolling capital investment plans. Deliver the Transport for the North strategy. New flood resilience standards for buildings and infrastructure in flood risk areas. Increase SuDS.

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## Climate Change

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*The Conservatives are backing climate change measures if they are not expensive. Labour has concentrated on global emissions, while the Lib Dems and Greens promise stronger UK commitments to carbon reduction.*

**Conservatives.** Cut emissions as cost-effectively as possible. Meet climate change commitments as cheaply as possible. Push for a strong global climate deal that keeps the goal of limiting global warming to two-degrees firmly in reach. Continue to support the UK Climate Change Act. Will not support additional distorting and expensive power sector targets.

**Greens.** An economy-wide system of carbon quotas, with everyone guaranteed the same basic entitlement, regardless of wealth. A strategy for capturing carbon and reducing greenhouse gases through improved land management, for example by encouraging and preserving peatlands. Oblige government departments and local authorities to consider climate change and carbon reduction in all their planning over a long time horizon of 50–100 years, including in all planning decisions. Prevent new building on flood plains.

**Labour.** Climate change at the heart of foreign policy. Push for a goal of net zero global emissions in the second half of this century.

**Lib Dems.** Zero Carbon Britain Act to bind Britain to zero carbon by 2050. National resilience plan to adapt to global warming. Construction and planning standards to futureproof buildings against higher summer temperatures.

**UKIP.** Repeal the 2008 Climate Change Act. Scrap EU Combustion Plant Directives.

For a comprehensive analysis of the environmental and climate change policies of all the parties, see Carbon Brief [CB](#).

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## Energy Supplies

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*The parties split on renewables, with Labour, the Lib Dems and the Greens supporting an expansion.*

**Conservatives.** End the use of unabated coal for power generation. Significant expansion in new nuclear and gas. Continue to support development of North Sea oil and gas. Back good-value green energy. Will not support additional distorting and expensive power sector targets. End any new public subsidy for onshore wind farms and local people to have final say on windfarm applications. Significant start-up funding for renewables only where clearly represent value for money. Support safe development of shale gas and ensure that local communities share the proceeds. Sovereign Wealth Fund for the North to invest shale gas resources.

**Greens.** No fracking. Expand mature renewable sources such as wind energy and solar photovoltaics up to 2030. Bring down costs, in part by reducing planning constraints, including those for onshore wind. Maximise opportunities for community, municipally owned, or cooperative not-for-profit organisations to generate and supply electricity and heat. Target for at least 42 gigawatts of community power by 2020. Phase out fossil-fuel-based generation, including the closure of all coal-fired power stations by 2023. Support carbon capture and storage to existing biomass and gas power stations only as a transitional technology. Phase out nuclear power within ten years.

**Labour.** Support the development of community energy and new nuclear. Robust environmental and regulatory regime for the extraction of shale gas, including tackling the climate change impact of shale gas and protecting sources of drinking water. No shale gas exploration in National Parks and protected areas. No moratorium on onshore wind. Work with the solar industry to provide the stable environment it needs in order to thrive. Carbon capture and storage is a necessity, not an option, to support the development of clean coal.

**Lib Dems.** Over a third of UK electricity will come from renewables by 2020. Lead the world in the technologies of the future from electric cars to tidal power. Decarbonisation of 50-100g per kWh by 2030. Electricity generation from unabated coal will stop by 2025. End ideologically motivated onshore wind farm decisions. Encourage growth of anaerobic digestion to produce biogas for heat, transport and sustainable fertiliser. Legal framework to facilitate deep geothermal heat, large scale heat pumps, waste industrial heat and energy storage systems.

**UKIP.** A diverse energy market based on coal, nuclear, shale gas, conventional gas, oil, solar and hydro, as well as other renewables where these can be delivered at competitive prices. Encourage the re-development of power stations and industrial units providing on-site power generation. Withdraw taxpayer and consumer subsidies for new wind turbines and solar photovoltaic arrays. Support hydro. Commission to investigate ways to secure the survival and expansion of indigenous coal industry in the form of deep, opencast and drift mining. Halt the decline of coal power stations.

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## Efficiency and Emissions

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*As a recent CPRE report said, energy efficiency is essential if renewable energy installations are not to sprawl across the countryside. All parties except UKIP feature home insulation in their manifestos.*

**Conservatives.** Smart Meter for every home and business by 2020. Support low-cost measures on energy efficiency, with the goal of insulating a million more homes over the next five years.

**Greens.** Provide a free nationwide retrofit insulation programme, concentrating on areas where fuel poverty is most serious. All new homes to be built to the Passivhaus standard.

**Labour.** Upgrade at least five million homes over ten years and establish energy efficiency as a national infrastructure priority. Free energy efficiency improvements to at least 200,000 households in or at risk of fuel poverty a year, delivered street-by-street by local authorities and other trusted bodies. Committed to zero carbon homes with a genuine definition as set out by the Zero Carbon Hub. Opposed to an indefinite exemption of small sites.

**Lib Dems.** Extend zero carbon standard to non-domestic buildings from 2019. Green Buildings Act to set new energy efficiency targets, including a long-term ambition for every home to reach an energy rating of at least band C by 2035 and all low-income homes by 2027. A new Feed Out Tariff for investment in solid wall insulation. Green Deal reformed to Green Homes Loan Scheme. Off-Gas-Grid Strategy to help rural areas benefit from new technologies.

**UKIP.** Withdraw from the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme.

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## Water

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*Only three of the parties turn their attention to water supply, with the Greens calling for new reservoirs in the South East.*

**Greens.** Require Ofwat and the Environment Agency to work together to create a healthy water environment and build new reservoirs in the south and east of England.

**Labour.** Strengthened regulator. All water companies will be required to sign up to a new national affordability scheme. Improving biodiversity and water quality by freeing up £150 million of CAP funding for better environmental protection and introducing a new primary sustainability duty for the water industry.

**Lib Dems.** Encourage uptake of water metering. By 2025, metering in water-stressed areas.

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## Recycling

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*The Lib Dems and Greens promise a 70% recycling rate by 2020.*

**Conservatives.** No mention.

**Greens.** Recycle 70% of domestic waste by 2020 as a move towards a zero-waste system. Design out waste from packaging and by fixing things. Ban waste food and other organic material from landfill.

**Labour.** Undertake a review of resource security to unlock economic opportunities and create confidence in the long-term demand for recycled material.

**Lib Dems.** Move towards circular economy. Resource Efficiency and Zero Waste Act will task Natural Capital Committee with a ‘Stern report’ on resource use. Statutory target of 70% recycling, stiffer penalties and 5 year guarantees for some products. Separate food waste collections for at least 90% of homes by 2020.

**UKIP.** Reinstate weekly bin collections where local communities want them reinstated.

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## Pollution and Littering

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*The Lib Dems and Greens tackle air pollution. The Tories are the only party to mention litter.*

**Conservatives.** Fixed penalty notices to tackle small-scale fly-tipping. Higher fixed penalty notices for littering.

**Greens.** Introduce Ultra Low Emission Zones. Begin consultation on a framework for the progressive elimination of diesel exhaust emissions.

**Labour.** Deal with the problems of air pollution by giving local authorities the powers they need, backed up by a national framework. Give local authorities the power and responsibility to tackle air pollution, and develop a strategy to meet EU targets on air quality in the shortest time possible. A national framework for low emissions zones.

**Lib Dems.** Green Transport Act. National Plan to dramatically improve air quality by 2020. National Air Quality Plan to include legal duty for low emission zones in polluted towns. From 2024, only ultra-low emission vehicles permitted except freight.

**UKIP.** No mention.

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## Regional Devolution

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*Five years ago there was constant talk of localism. In 2015, there are only two mentions of the localism word in the five manifestos. But there are proposals for devolve more powers to ‘bigger than local’ areas.*

**Conservatives.** Devolve far-reaching powers over economic development, transport and social care to large cities which choose to have elected mayors. More bespoke Growth Deals with local councils, where locally supported.

**Greens.** Parts of England, based on groups of local authorities, could come together to exercise greater powers; these might amount to existing regions, or possibly city regions.

**Labour.** Devolve economic and development housing powers to city and county regions. English Devolution Act handing £30 billion of resources and powers to city and county-regions including control over transport.

**Lib Dems.** Meet the needs of England with Devolution on Demand, letting local areas take control of the services that matter most to them.

**UKIP.** No mention of devolution within England.

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## Community Rights and Services

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*The manifestos have a smattering of pledges to protect community services in rural areas.*

**Conservatives.** Strengthen the Community Right to Bid by extending time limits and requiring owners to set a clear reserve price for the community. Make the most of the economic potential of our rural areas. Secure the future of 3,000 rural Post Offices. Pub Loan Fund to enable community groups.

**Lib Dems.** Prioritise rural housing. Review access to transport for students and apprentices in rural areas. Innovation fund to help keep local GPs, post offices and libraries open. Renew commitment of no programme of post office closures. Retained police officers. Fuel discount for remote areas. Libraries under threat of closure offered to the local community first. Community Right to Buy to protect community assets like pubs. Planning permission required to convert a pub into alternative uses.

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## Communications

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*For rural communities, getting broadband into the final percent of the countryside is vital. Here are what the parties are proposing.*

**Conservatives.** Superfast broadband in urban and rural areas to provide coverage to 95% of the UK by the end of 2017. Subsidy for installing superfast capable satellite services in the very hardest to reach areas. Invest in mobile infrastructure to deliver coverage for voice calls and text messages for the final 0.3-0.4% of UK premises that do not have it.

**Greens.** Give BT and other public telecommunications operators an obligation to provide affordable high-speed broadband-capable infrastructure to every household and small business.

**Labour.** All parts of the country to benefit from affordable, high speed broadband by the end of the parliament. Deliver mobile infrastructure needed to extend coverage and reduce ‘not spots’, including in areas of market failure.

**Lib Dems.** Complete the rollout of high-speed broadband, to reach almost every household (99.9%) as well as small businesses in rural and urban areas.

**UKIP.** No commitments.

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## The CPRE eBulletins

**CPRE South East eBulletin** is independently written and edited by Andy Boddington: [cprenews@andybodders.co.uk](mailto:cprenews@andybodders.co.uk). Views expressed in the eBulletin and its editorial approach are those of its editor and not any part of CPRE.

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