

MY MANIFESTO BY ANDREW HARRIS : JUNE 2026

1. TAX – Avoid the temptation to tax business more than is essential because they don't have a vote and because it destroys jobs. Incentivise business to employ young people. Base Business Rates on the Gross Internal Area of premises of each Use-Class. Do not distinguish between High Streets, Retail Parks, Call Centres and Distribution Centres. Calculate Council Tax on the Gross Internal Area of dwellings which (unlike historic values) do not need re-assessing excepting only occasion extensions etc.. Scrap the Triple Lock: the state pension should rise or fall with average income to unify the country. We need a small increase in VAT.

2. HOUSING – A dynamic housing programme is the only activity which can meet a huge social need and boost the economy through growth. The UK needs 300,000 to 500,000 new homes a year to resolve its housing crisis yet only 115,350 were completed in 2025. The Government gives the collection of Stamp Duty higher priority despite its negative affect on the housing market. Action is needed to streamline the sclerotic planning system although we should ban new development on grade 1, 2 and (possibly) 2A farmland. As 30% of all households are now single person-only, flats are much-needed but can only fulfil their potential if 'Grenfell Tower' fire risk is dealt with and action taken to regulate predatory off-site freeholders and managing agents who often exploit and intimidate flat owners or tenants through service charges. As a result many flats (and especially retirement flats) become vacant and unsellable. A major housing programme is fundable as assets result.

3. ENERGY – The cost of energy is a major cause of the cost of living crisis in the UK and the difficulty our companies have in competing with foreign companies which pay much less for their energy. The UK energy mix is reasonable when the wind blows and or the sun shines. Despite our history of nuclear power we will lose most of our current nuclear power stations (which have typically provided 20% of the UK need) in the next few years and the new power stations are too big and too slow. Small Modular Reactors have the potential to provide a more dynamic and flexible response to need. As an island we have the potential to tap tidal power which is a free source of energy which can feed into the national grid 24 hours a day given the varied tide times around our extensive coast. We ignore it.

4. EDUCATION – Governments never understand supply and demand. When the job market is flooded with graduates (many with non-vocational degrees) their appeal and value reduce. The balance between higher and further education should be adjusted to reflect the need in the UK for professional and skilled employment. Forms of apprenticeships should be explored for all types of employment. This should avoid the stigma of the term and have the potential to involve employers and others instead of government loan sharks.

5. OTHERS – Reform of public services and facilities is long overdue. This could involve road pricing of motorways to make users only pay for the actual USE of them. Other needs include the Probation Service, Police, DVLA, Courts, Prisons which could work together.