

#	Top 10 Policies for a new UK Government Focused on Productivity	Liberal Democrats	Conservatives	Labour
1	Create a stable set of economic policies geared towards growth: These include supporting business investment in skills, innovation, and the transition to a net-zero economy.	The Liberal Democrats focus on fostering stability, certainty, and confidence by managing public finances responsibly. They plan to invest in green infrastructure, innovation, and skills to boost economic growth and create good jobs while tackling the climate crisis. They also aim to repair the broken relationship with Europe, which they see as a brake on the economy. Additionally, they propose to support small businesses, improve long-term productivity, and deliver greater stability for long-term investment, particularly in industries of the future.	The Conservatives highlight their track record of economic management, claiming to have created four million more jobs, cut taxes, and repaired public finances. They emphasize their plan to halve inflation, grow the economy, and reduce debt. Their approach includes backing businesses to invest, innovate, and trade, as well as leveraging the innovation and investment of the private sector to unleash technologies that cut costs for households. They also support domestic steel production and have introduced safeguards against heavily subsidised foreign steel.	The Labour Party's approach is encapsulated in their concept of "securonomics," which emphasises sustainable growth based on a broad economic base and resilient foundations. They propose a strategic partnership with business through a new industrial strategy that is mission-driven and future-focused. This strategy includes the establishment of an Industrial Strategy Council to provide expert advice and ensure representation from all nations and regions, business, and trade unions. They also aim to reform the planning regime to facilitate the necessary infrastructure and housing development.
2	Attract high-value investment: Spearhead R&D initiatives and attract foreign direct investment (FDI) focused on addressing national challenges like infrastructure, healthcare and the transition to net zero.	The Liberal Democrats aim to support science, research, and innovation, particularly among small businesses, startups, universities, and in sectors like zero-carbon, environmental, and medical technologies. They plan to continue participating in Horizon Europe and join the European Innovation Council. They also set a target of investing at least 3% of GDP in R&D by 2030, rising to 3.5% by 2034. Additionally, they propose to repair the broken relationship with Europe, which they see as a brake on the economy, to facilitate investment, jobs, and tax revenue.	The Conservatives emphasise their track record of turning the UK into a science and innovation superpower. They plan to increase public spending on R&D to £22 billion a year and maintain R&D tax reliefs. They are also focused on simplifying the planning system to speed up infrastructure projects and reduce their cost. Additionally, they will support domestic flights and the maritime sector, foster the space industry, and back the agricultural sector with a labor scheme that moves away from reliance on seasonal migrant labor. They will also continue to support UK agri-food and drink attachés abroad to pioneer new markets.	Labour's approach includes the establishment of a National Wealth Fund, capitalized with £7.3 billion over the course of the next Parliament, to support growth and clean energy missions. The fund aims to attract three pounds of private investment for every one pound of public investment. They also plan to allocate £1.8 billion to upgrade ports and build supply chains across the UK. Furthermore, they will ensure that their industrial strategy supports the development of the AI sector and removes planning barriers to new data centers. They will also create a National Data Library to support data-driven public services.
3	Focus on inclusive growth: Develop policies that strengthen well-being and engage people currently out of the labour market or without a job, including supporting hybrid work.	The Liberal Democrats focus on improving the quality of vocational education and strengthening careers advice in schools and colleges. They also propose to fix the work visa system and expand the Youth Mobility Scheme to address labour shortages. Furthermore, they plan to establish a powerful new Worker Protection Enforcement Authority and an independent review to recommend a genuine living wage across all sectors. They also aim to modernise employment rights to fit the age of the 'gig economy' and support entrepreneurs and small businesses.	The Conservative Party's approach to inclusive growth is not explicitly detailed in the manifesto. However, they do mention a plan to get more people into work and build a fairer welfare system, which suggests a focus on inclusive growth policies.	The Labour Party's approach to inclusive growth is centered around creating secure jobs and making work pay. They plan to introduce a new industrial strategy that is mission-driven and focused on the future, which includes the establishment of an Industrial Strategy Council to provide expert advice. They also aim to reform employment support to drive growth and opportunity, ensuring that the system is underpinned by rights and responsibilities. Additionally, they are committed to reviewing Universal Credit to make work pay and tackle poverty.
4	Boost public sector productivity: Introduce initiatives to deliver public services better and faster, not just to save money but also to help people, firms and places improve their productivity.	The Liberal Democrat approach to boosting public sector productivity is not explicitly detailed in their manifesto. However, it does mention a commitment to responsible management of the public finances, which could imply a focus on efficiency and productivity in the public sector. They also propose to invest in green infrastructure, innovation, and skills, which could indirectly contribute to public sector productivity by enhancing the capabilities of the workforce and the efficiency of public services.	The Conservative Party's approach to boosting public sector productivity includes doubling digital and AI expertise in the civil service to leverage technology for transforming public services. They also aim to achieve a significant productivity boost in Whitehall by returning public sector productivity to pre-pandemic levels, which could save up to £20 billion annually. They require all government departments to deliver plans for 2% annual productivity growth at the next Spending Review. Additionally, they have used post-Brexit tax freedoms to introduce VAT-free installations of energy-efficient materials and replace complex EU alcohol duty rates.	The Labour Party's approach to public sector productivity is part of their broader economic strategy, "securonomics," which emphasises sustainable growth with a broad base and resilient foundations. They plan to introduce a new industrial strategy that is mission-driven and future-focused, establishing an Industrial Strategy Council to provide expert advice. They also aim to improve public services by increasing capacity and support for councils and overhauling the local audit system to ensure better value for money for taxpayers. Additionally, they will work with the Scottish and Welsh Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive to drive growth across the country.
5	Regulate better: Simplify and speed up planning processes, make land use more flexible, and tackle other regulations that currently hinder investment. And benefit from the new Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act to broaden the productivity gains from the digital economy beyond large "winner takes all" firms.	The Liberal Democrats focus on ensuring the UK maintains high standards in various areas, including environmental protection, health, labour, and consumer rights, at least matching EU standards. They propose to tackle the productivity crisis by encouraging businesses to invest in training, adopt digital technologies, and become more energy-efficient. They also plan to work with major banks to fund the creation of a local banking sector dedicated to supporting local small and medium-sized businesses.	The Conservative Party's approach to regulating better includes reducing the burden of regulation to free businesses to thrive, while maintaining proportionate protections for consumers and workers. They have already repealed or reformed over 2,000 EU laws and aim to repeal or reform over half of the entire stock of EU law inherited by July 2026. They also plan to simplify the planning system to make it easier to build, faster, and introduce reforms to outdated EU red tape to better protect nature while enabling the building of new homes, prisons, and energy schemes.	The Labour Party's approach to regulating better involves creating a new Regulatory Innovation Office to help regulators update regulations, speed up approval timelines, and coordinate issues that span existing boundaries. They also plan to make changes to the planning regime to forge ahead with new infrastructure and update national planning policy to meet the needs of a modern economy. Additionally, they will ensure economic regulation supports growth and investment, promotes competition, works for consumers, and enables innovation.
6	Improve trade and foreign investment: Agree better trade deals, especially with the EU, to ensure British firms face less cost and red tape in exporting and that foreign investment creates broader productivity gains for the economy.	The Liberal Democrats aim to unlock British businesses' global potential by bringing down trade barriers and building stronger future relationships with trading partners, including by fixing the broken relationship with Europe. They propose to ensure the UK has the highest possible standards in various areas, at least matching EU standards. They also plan to give Parliament real power in setting UK trade policy, provide small and medium-sized enterprises with readily available trade information and tailored support, and make it an objective of trade ministers to boost trade by small British businesses. Furthermore, they would aim to place the UK-EU relationship on a more formal and stable footing by seeking to join the Single Market, which they see as essential steps towards EU membership.	The Conservative Party emphasises the importance of standing up for UK agriculture in trade deals and has signed the Atlantic Declaration and deals with eight US states, with a view to agreeing on a free trade agreement with the US when they are ready. They also highlight their commitment to regulatory reform using Brexit freedoms and cutting government bureaucracy by returning the civil service to its pre-pandemic size to pay for increased defense spending. They have supported the agricultural sector with a labor scheme that moves away from reliance on seasonal migrant labor and continues to support UK agri-food and drink attachés abroad to pioneer new markets.	The Labour Party's approach includes working in partnership with industry to seize opportunities and remove barriers to growth. They plan to improve the UK's trade and investment relationship with the EU by tearing down unnecessary barriers to trade, negotiating a veterinary agreement to prevent unnecessary border checks, and securing a mutual recognition agreement for professional qualifications to open up markets for UK service exporters. They also seek an ambitious new UK-EU security pact to strengthen cooperation on the threats both face. Additionally, they will seek targeted trade agreements aligned with their industrial strategy and economic strengths, and publish a trade strategy to promote the highest standards in food production and secure access to international markets for UK businesses.
7	Streamline business support: Develop a simpler and more effective business support network by consolidating existing offerings, and provide grant support for larger firms to collaborate with and support smaller businesses (SMEs).	The Liberal Democrats propose to expand the British Business Bank to ensure viable SMEs have access to capital and to enable it to help 'crowd-in' private investment, particularly in zero-carbon products and technologies. They also aim to abolish business rates and replace them with a Commercial Landowner Levy to help high streets. Furthermore, they plan to work with major banks to fund the creation of a local banking sector dedicated to meeting the needs of local SMEs.	The Conservative Party's approach includes a ten-point plan to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which involves continuing to ease the burden of business rates for high street, leisure, and hospitality businesses, improving access to finance for SMEs, and taking more companies out of the scope of burdensome reporting requirements. They also aim to support firms with a business rates support package and have made it easier and cheaper for small businesses to hire an apprentice. Additionally, they have raised the VAT registration threshold to £90,000, taking 28,000 small businesses out of paying VAT altogether.	The Labour Party's approach is to introduce a new industrial strategy that is mission-driven and focused on the future. They plan to work in partnership with industry to seize opportunities and remove barriers to growth. They will establish an Industrial Strategy Council to provide expert advice and ensure representation from all nations and regions, business, and trade unions. Additionally, they will support the development of the AI sector, remove planning barriers to new data centers, and create a National Data Library to support data-driven public services.
8	Foster collaboration for local innovation systems: Implement measures to encourage networking and knowledge sharing between businesses in the same areas.	The Liberal Democrats propose to launch an ambitious industrial strategy to incentivize businesses to invest and create good jobs across the UK. They also plan to support local and regional economic partnerships to coordinate development projects and boost growth in their areas. This approach could facilitate networking and knowledge sharing among businesses by aligning economic development goals and fostering partnerships at the local level.	The Conservative Party's approach to fostering local innovation systems is not explicitly detailed in the manifesto. However, they do mention creating more Freeports and Business Rates Retention zones, which could indirectly support local innovation by providing economic incentives for businesses to collaborate and innovate within these zones.	The Labour Party's approach includes the introduction of a new industrial strategy that is mission-driven and focused on the future. They plan to work in partnership with industry to seize opportunities and remove barriers to growth. They will establish an Industrial Strategy Council to provide expert advice and ensure representation from all nations and regions, business, and trade unions. This strategy could promote collaboration and knowledge sharing by bringing together stakeholders and focusing on common goals for economic growth.
9	Invest in skills at the local level: Invest in public sector training programs at regional and local levels to enhance capabilities across the country and empower English regional mayors with greater authority over skills formation in their regions.	The Liberal Democrats propose to boost the take-up of apprenticeships by guaranteeing they are paid at least the National Minimum Wage and by creating new Lifelong Skills Grants for adults to spend on education and training throughout their lives. They also aim to develop National Colleges as centers of expertise for key sectors to deliver the high-level vocational skills that businesses need. Furthermore, they plan to identify and address skills gaps by expanding higher vocational training.	The Conservative Party's approach is to continue backing Investment Zones across the country, giving areas £160 million to catalyze local growth and investment. They also plan to create more Freeports and Business Rates Retention zones, which could indirectly support local skills development by providing economic incentives for businesses to invest in their local workforce.	The Labour Party's approach includes empowering local leaders to have greater control over skills development in their areas. They plan to transform Further Education colleges into specialist Technical Excellence Colleges, which will work with businesses, trade unions, and local government to provide young people with better job opportunities and the highly trained workforce that local economies need. They will establish Skills England to coordinate between local areas and ensure access to all available opportunities. Additionally, they are committed to devolving adult skills funding to Combined Authorities.
10	Promote coordinated policy efforts and address fragmentation: Set up a new Growth and Productivity Institution on a statutory footing and develop a framework of institutions that allow for aligning pro-productivity policies between UK-wide, devolved nations, regional and city levels	The Liberal Democrats' manifesto highlights the development of an industrial strategy that provides businesses with certainty and encourages investment in new technologies. This strategy is aimed at growing the economy, creating good jobs, and addressing the climate crisis. They also propose to re-establish the Industrial Strategy Council on a statutory footing to ensure long-term oversight and evaluation of the industrial strategy. The Liberal Democrat manifesto discusses the creation of a Joint Climate Council of the Nations to tackle the climate emergency, which is an example of an institution that could potentially align policies across different levels of government, but it doesn't detail a comprehensive framework for pro-productivity policy alignment.	The Conservative Party's manifesto does not explicitly mention an "industrial strategy" in the provided excerpts. However, it does discuss policies that would typically fall under the umbrella of industrial strategy, such as supporting the maritime sector, fostering science and innovation expertise, and simplifying the planning system to speed up infrastructure projects. The Conservatives highlight their track record in turning the UK into a science and innovation superpower, with a focus on sectors like AI and life sciences. The Conservative Party manifesto touches on the importance of maintaining meaningful intergovernmental relations and supporting devolved governments to deliver for their people. However, it doesn't explicitly mention a framework for aligning pro-productivity policies across different levels of government.	The Labour Party's manifesto introduces a new industrial strategy that is mission-driven and future-focused. They emphasize strategic partnership with industry to seize opportunities and remove barriers to growth. The establishment of an Industrial Strategy Council is proposed to provide expert advice and ensure representation from all nations and regions, business, and trade unions. The strategy is to be aligned with regional development priorities and includes a ten-year infrastructure strategy to guide investment plans and give the private sector certainty about the project pipeline. The Labour Party manifesto provides the clearest indication of a commitment to developing a framework for aligning pro-productivity policies across UK-wide, devolved nations, regional, and city levels. They outline plans to improve intergovernmental working and collaboration on policy, which includes the establishment of a new Council of the Nations and Regions. This council is intended to bring together the Prime Minister, the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, the First and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, and the Mayors of Combined Authorities to enhance cooperation and decision-making at a UK-wide level. Additionally, the Labour Party manifesto mentions the strengthening of the Sewel Convention through a new memorandum of understanding, which outlines how the nations will work together for the common good.