

Election 2024 – Party pledges

18 June 2024

Most parties have now published their manifestos, the document that sets out the policies that they would deliver if they won the general election. We've read through them and extracted pledges that would directly impact on leisure-time music making; pledges on arts and culture, community leisure activity, arts and health and music education.

The words are copied directly from the manifestos. But we are aware that taking things out of context can misrepresent a policy, so please see the full manifesto to fully understand what the pledge is. The extracts are presented by date of publication – earliest first.

Liberal Democrats

[For a Fair Deal - Liberal Democrats Manifesto 2024 - Liberal Democrats \(libdems.org.uk\)](https://libdems.org.uk)

Culture, Media and Sport

We will ...

- Establish creative enterprise zones to grow and regenerate the cultural output of areas across the UK.
- Protect sports and arts funding via the National Lottery.
- Boost funding for cultural and creative projects by applying to participate fully in Creative Europe.

Education

We will ...

- Include arts subjects in the English Baccalaureate...so that schools continue to provide a rich curriculum including subjects like art, music or drama.
 - Expand provision of extracurricular activities, such as sport, music, drama, debating and coding, starting with a new free entitlement for disadvantaged children.

Communities and Local Government

We will ...

- Tackle the funding crisis facing local authorities, including by providing multi-year settlements
- Invest in leisure centres, swimming pools and other grassroots facilities

The Conservative and Unionist Party

[Conservative Manifesto 2024 \(conservatives.com\)](https://www.conservatives.com)

Supporting our world leading creative industries

We will ...

- ensure our creative sector tax incentives remain competitive.
- ensure creators are properly protected and remunerated for their work, whilst also making the most of the opportunities of AI and its applications for creativity in the future.

Our plan to give young people the opportunities and skills they need

We will ...

- support children in their transition to secondary school and ensure they continue to receive a broad and enriched education during and after-school, including via our multi-million pound Music Hubs.

Our plan to strengthen communities

We will ...

- extend our Community Ownership Fund to help more communities across the UK take control of vital community assets like pubs, music venues, libraries, green spaces, leisure centres and more.

Our plan to strengthen the United Kingdom

Levelling up across the UK

We will ...

- maintain the Community Ownership Fund for another three years, enabling community groups across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to continue accessing funding to save community assets which are at risk of being lost.
- These (Levelling Up) schemes improve communities and support infrastructure as well as sports and cultural activities across the UK, sitting alongside our backing for events such as the Hay Festival, the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe and the UK and Ireland Euro 2028 tournament.

Green Party

[Green-Party-2024-General-Election-Manifesto-Long-version_imprint.pdf](#)
(greenparty.org.uk)

Access to Art, Sport and Culture for All

We will ...

- Support local grassroots sports clubs, music and art venues.

To support local culture and sport, elected Greens will campaign to:

- Invest an extra £5bn over 5 years for local government spending on arts and culture to fund keeping local museums, theatres, libraries and art galleries open and thriving.
- Exempt cultural events, including everything from theatre and museum tickets to gigs in local pubs, from paying VAT.
- Give local authorities discretionary powers to exempt socially and economically essential local enterprises from business rates.
- Ensure that musicians have access to visa free travel to the EU through negotiating a reciprocal arrangement at the earliest possible opportunity.

Digital rights

We would ...

- insist on the protection of the Intellectual Property of artists, writers and musicians and other creators.

Schools

We will:

- Review assessment targets in schools so that arts and vocational subjects are treated equally within the curriculum...

Plaid Cymru

Manifesto - The Party of Wales

Culture, Media and Sport – Fairness for our Arts and Culture

- Plaid Cymru support additional funding (*for cultural, heritage and arts organisations in Wales*) being provided that will directly assist these to carry out the roles that they are required to deliver.
- (We believe) that the arts are for everybody and that our organisations should continue to provide greater support and opportunities for everybody to engage with them and participate, irrespective of their background. This requires partnerships between stakeholders to foster relationships between locally based cultural activities and our national institutions.
- Wales should also be a host to high quality cultural organisations... There should be no reason to sacrifice quality in order to ensure access for all.
- ...We will also work with the Urdd and Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru to ensure free tickets are available for low income families, exploring with them if this can be expanded in future years.
- We support the better promotion of Welsh culture and heritage
- We will instigate a Welsh Freelancers Fund to support the creative sector. We will apply the lessons learned from the Basic Income for the Arts scheme in the Republic of Ireland...
- Playing sport and participating in arts and culture is a significant part of our well-being. Recognising the positive effects that this has upon individuals and communities, we will promote participation and engagement, looking to fund this from cross governmental sources.
- We will examine how we can participate and benefit from the international Creative Europe programme that aims to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage, and to increase the economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors.

Welsh Language

- We will promote an increase in Welsh medium arts provision and activity, and the development of career pathways in the arts in the Welsh language,

Rural Affairs - Fairness for our Rural Communities

- We will provide support to local communities to keep open important services, such as pubs and community centres, which are under threat due to rising costs

Labour Party

<https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Labour-Party-manifesto-2024.pdf>

BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY:

Access to arts, music and sport

We will:

- implement our creative industries sector plan as part of our Industrial Strategy, creating good jobs and accelerating growth in film, music, gaming, and other creative sectors.
- support children to study a creative or vocational subject until they are 16, and ensure accountability measures reflect this.
- launch a new National Music Education Network – a one-stop shop with information on courses and classes for parents, teachers and children.
- put fans back at the heart of events by introducing new consumer protections on ticket resales. (Access to music, drama and sport has become difficult and expensive because of ticket touting).

Scottish Labour Party – additional pledges

<https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Scottish-Labour-Manifesto-2024.pdf>

- The creative industries ... sector (is) a key component of our 'Brand Scotland' offer
- Scottish Labour will ensure the Edinburgh festivals form part of our wider plan to treat our creative industries as an economic asset and to promote tourism so they can continue to attract investment and be enjoyed by generations to come.
- Scottish Labour wants to ... expand the provision of music tuition through a national online support platform so that all children have the chance to learn these skills.

Reform UK -

[Our Contract - Contents - Reform UK \(reformparty.uk\)](#)

No pledges with direct impact

Scottish Liberal Democrats –

<https://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/fairdeal>

No pledges in addition to the UK manifesto with direct impact

Scottish National Party

[SNP 2024 Manifesto: A Future Made in Scotland — Scottish National Party](#)

- Rejoin the EU: Giving access to the Creative Europe scheme, supporting culture sector cooperation and boosting economic potential of our creative industries
- Introduce 'Martyn's Law' without delay to ensure venues and councils have preventative plans in place against terror attacks.

Sinn Fein

<https://vote.sinnfein.ie/westminster-election-2024/>

No pledges with direct impact

The Workers Party of Britain

[Workers Party Manifesto - Britain Deserves Better \(workerspartybritain.org\)](#)

- Arts spending will be on national and working-class culture and public money will not be wasted on sectional interests.
- Government can create the conditions by which local arts and culture can flourish...
- Education is a key social infrastructure. This means ... investment in extra-curricular subjects like the arts and music as well as sports...
- The WPB's cultural policy will start with a radical overhaul of the funding of the arts, the charitable sector and the educational system to re-emphasise critical thinking, free debate, free speech and mutual respect.
- We will also take a far more critical approach to corporate ownership of information and common artistic heritage through investor exploitation of intellectual property and copyright legislation...

These parties have not published Election 2024 manifestos (as of 19 June 2024), but you can read what they stand for on their websites:

Democratic Unionist Party

[Our Policies | Democratic Unionist Party | DUP \(mydup.com\)](#)

Social Democratic and Labour Party

[Social Democratic and Labour Party \(sdlp.ie\)](#)

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

https://www.allianceparty.org/our_vision