

## Shovel ready

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Many people have asked what People's Quantitative Easing might deliver in the short term - especially [as it is now looking more likely](#) that such a programme will be needed long before the next General Election.

As example, I note [the Scottish government](#) came up with a list of what it called shovel ready projects in 2012 when a downturn in construction suggested that real boost was needed for this sector. Alex Salmond said then (as First Minister at the time) that:

*In March — at his request — I wrote to the Prime Minister outlining infrastructure projects worth £300m from the north to the south of Scotland that are 'shovel ready' to stimulate the Scottish economy and help keep Scotland out of recession.*

What were those projects? This is the list, and I would be amazed if it could not be replicated around the UK:

*Ullapool Pier - Passenger access system, traffic management, new berthing dolphin and replacement linkspan, £4m*

*Gourock-Dunoon Pontoons £2m*

*Kennacraig Phase 2, £4m*

*A96 Threapland, £6m*

*A68 Pathhead to Tynehead Junction, £6m*

*A95 Lackgie, £4m*

*A702 Candymill Bend and Edmonstone Brae, £4m*

*A737 Head Street Roundabout, £1.5m*

*A876 Kincardine Bridge Refurbishment, £14m*

*A75 Hardgrove to Kinmount, £10m*

*M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements: Advance Public Utilities, £37.8m*

*Health Maintenance to ensure assets are safe, effective and person centred, £50m*

*Accelerating Schools for the Future — worth £30.8m*

*University projects worth £35m including: University of Glasgow - Centre for Virology Research; University of Dundee - Phases 2 and 3 - refurbishment of Duncan of Jordanstone; University of Abertay / Dundee College - Dundee Academy of Sport; University of Edinburgh - Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences.*

*Dundee Central Waterfront, £4.5m*

*Fife Energy Park - Site Development, £3.5m*

*ITREZ Technology Innovation Centre, £4m*

*ATOS Building - Forress Enterprise Park, £3m*

*Inverness Campus, £6m*

*Forres Enterprise Park - Extension of Roads, £2m*

*Forres Enterprise Park - Provide 2 Units, £3m*

*European Marine Science Park - Ground works, £3.5m*

*Creative Clyde, £1.7m*

*National Renewable Infrastructure Plan - Hunterston Quay Upgrade, £2m*

*Priority investments within Local Authority Strategic Housing Investment Plans, £15m*

*Clyde Gateway developments at Bridgeton Cross, Dalmarnock Cross, Rutherglen and Shawfield, £37m*

*Ayr Gaiety Theatre regeneration, £1m*

*National Records of Scotland - Thomas Thomson House - urgent roof repairs, £1.5m*

*Historic Scotland - Abbotsford House - restoration to bring into public use, £0.7m*

*Historic Scotland - Lewis Castle development, £1m*

*Forestry Commission Scotland - upgrade of visitor facilities at David Marshall Lodge,*

*Aberfoyle and Queen's View, Perthshire, £1m*

*National Parks - visitor facility improvements within the National Parks, £1m*

*Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh - commence replacement of the Garden's ageing glasshouses, £1.5m*

***TOTAL £302m***

Add in broadband roll out, small business investment, flood works, plus the start of council house building and things begin to look very shovel ready very quickly.