How to Avoid Throwing the Oil Industry Under a Bus

We must learn lessons from the demise of the coal industry in the '70s.

- Mass unemployment
- Towns eviscerated
- Generations which subsequently, have never ever worked
- Resulting poverty, crime and drug addiction

The reason?

No re-industrialisation in the areas affected. (Predominately the Valleys of Wales, NE England and some parts of the Midlands).

The Oil Industry is inevitably going the same way. Currently employing 11,000-15,000 support workers and its industries earning £3.6bn-£7.6bn/year turnover.

We must not repeat the mistakes of the '70s.

Declare Aberdeenshire an "Emergency Development Area"

1. Upgrade communications, the NE rail link, more subsidised public transport.
2. Relax planning restrictions, more industrial parks and housing estates
3. Financial incentives for new companies and existing ones to relocate here.
   (Heretical suggestion! Lower corporation tax for companies who offer new non-oil jobs)
4. Grants and bursaries for retraining of oil workers
5. Financial help in moving packages for householders who cannot bear the thought of Aberdeenshire becoming industrial, so they can relocate to Sutherland, where the air is pure, the grass is green and never a pylon or windmill in sight.

Where will the money come from?

The Renewables industry.

The approximate gross earnings of an offshore wind farm is £1 billion per year per Gigawatt of capacity.

A 5-year initial tax on earnings, decreasing as infrastructure is put into place.

After the initial spend, the new influx of industries and households will generate more taxes and less needed benefits.