

First deadline submissions Autumn 2026

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Policy Motions

Climate Change and Energy Motions

1. Cool Britannia: Keeping Britain Cool

Proposer Pippa Heylings

Summator tbc

Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

I. The Climate Change Committee's (CCC) May 2026 report, A Well-Adapted UK, warns that without urgent action heatwaves in the south of England could regularly exceed 40°C by 2050, peak river flows could be 45% higher across the UK and last longer driving severe flooding, and shortfalls in public water supply could exceed five billion litres per day.

II. This situation will likely be exacerbated by the El Nino event which has been announced by the World Meteorological Organisation.

III. Avoidable heat-related deaths are currently up to 3,000 a year during heatwaves and could rise up to 10,0000 per year by 2050, with 92% of homes projected to overheat in summer.

IV. Over 90% of NHS hospitals are at risk of overheating, care homes, and schools remain largely unequipped with adequate cooling, leaving patients, residents and workers dangerously exposed during heatwaves.

V. Many European countries already have maximum workplace temperature regulations, protections that the UK has still not introduced.

VI. Successive Conservative and Labour governments have left the UK unprepared to deal with a changing climate, with the CCC warning the government's action on adaptation is wholly unprepared and "clearly isn't working".

VII. The CCC estimates the cost of inaction could reach 1–5% of UK GDP annually by 2050 equivalent to £60–260 billion per year.This far exceeds the estimated £11 billion per year required to adapt effectively.

VIII. It is critical that the UK does everything to avoid worsening climate breakdown by reducing polluting carbon emissions.

IX. The UK's dependence on fossil fuels has left households and businesses dangerously exposed to global price shocks, as demonstrated by the energy crisis of recent years.

X. Clean energy investment is both an environmental and economic necessity, and the transition to net zero must deliver tangible cost-of-living benefits for all households, not just those who can afford to act first.

Conference believes that:

A. Climate change is not a future threat, it is already here, harming people, and costing lives. This is a public health emergency.

B. A developed and shared understanding of the civil contingency risks we face as a country is fundamental for resilience.

C. Protecting hospitals, care homes and schools from extreme heat is a matter of patient and resident safety, and should be treated with the same urgency as any other public health emergency.

D. The burden on the NHS of heat-related illness and avoidable deaths is costly.

E. Extreme heat and prolonged periods of warmer days can lead to a loss of up to 12 days of learning per year in schools and can have a debilitating impact on those children who have problems regulating and/or with learning disabilities.

F. Supporting low-income households to access clean heating and cooling technology is a matter of health equity, not just climate policy.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat pledges to:

I. “Double nature” by 2050, recognising the critical role of nature-based solutions in both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

II. Introduce an Essential Energy Guarantee (as a progressive social energy tariff) and targeted free home energy improvements for low-income households.

III. Reach net zero by 2050 at the latest, generating 90% of the UK's electricity from renewables by 2030.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Roll out an emergency strategy to ensure there is adequate cooling in all NHS hospitals, care homes, and schools in high-risk areas within the next 5 years.

2. Adapt the 10 Year Education Estates Strategy to include cooling measures, prioritising those schools at greatest overheating risk.

3. Introduce maximum workplace temperature regulations including schools, in line with the majority of comparable European countries, to protect workers during severe summers; and to protect a thriving economy.

4. Introduce maximum ward temperatures of 28 degrees and 25 degrees for sensitive areas like birthing and recovery rooms.

5. Support low-income households to install heat pumps capable of providing both heating and cooling, reducing energy bills and improving resilience to extreme temperatures.

6. Develop a cross-departmental climate adaptation and preparedness strategy with clear adaptation targets, funding commitments, delivery timelines and accountability mechanisms, in coordination with and through local authorities and Local Resilience Forums.

7. Take steps to cool our towns and cities by planting more trees to create shade, especially outside schools, hospitals and care homes.

8. Treat the CCC's A Well-Adapted UK report not merely as a warning, but as a roadmap and respond to it with the urgency it demands.

Communities, Housing and Local Government Motions

1. Building the Future

Proposer	Andrew Haldane
Summator	Iain Donaldson
Submitted by	North West Region

Conference reaffirms its support for the motion and policy paper “Tackling the Housing Crisis” particularly noting concerns for the housing prospects of current and future generations and about massive unearned Land Value Uplift profits accruing through planning consents which also, directly or indirectly, impose huge costs on the rest of society.

Conference references the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee Report “Delivering 1.5 million new homes: Land Value Capture”, noting;

i. The statement; “the Government must immediately pursue reforms to land value capture to ensure developers make fair contributions towards the infrastructure and affordable housing which communities rightly expect”.

ii. A 2020 Government estimate that, on average, residential land was 116 times more valuable than agricultural land

iii. Expert evidence that Section 106 and CIL combined could capture approximately 27% of Land Value Uplift with taxation of profits potentially raising this to between 42% and 48%.

iv. Concerns that new CPO powers to acquire land for affordable/social housing at current value may be open to judicial review.

Conference notes with concern;

A. Industry data suggests that 1/3rd of the cost of a £375,000 new build, ie £125,000 is the land cost, indicating Land Value Uplift may have risen from 116 x agricultural value in 2020 to around 125 x today. That is roughly 125,000%

B. Excluding affordable/social homes, the land value uplift profit to landowners inherent in Labour’s targets could collectively reach circa £140 billion before tax or application of Section 106 /CIF.

C. Government policy, open to challenge as unfair, permits land acquisition for affordable/social housing at current value;, circa £10,000 per acre, a cost per plot of about £1000, approximately 1/125th of its value for private housing. European practice, cited in Policy Paper 155 with compensation at current value plus 200% would only raise this cost per plot £3000.

D. Government desperation for large parcels of land for new towns and other big developments leaves it vulnerable to untransparent horse- trading with massive profits on private housing land to compensate for unfairly priced social/affordable housing land.

E. For example, a proposed Adlington New Town, put forward without prior knowledge of local councillors and with negotiations between the developer and Council officers subject to an NDA, was rejected unanimously by Cheshire East Councillors over severe detriment to their community and adjacent areas of Stockport. If the private housing element were ever to be developed at open market land values then an agricultural estate which changed hands in 2024 at a £30 million guide price could be worth circa £1-2 bn.

Conference believes

1. The time has now come to seek innovative solutions such as Housing Co-operatives which, for example, provide 20% of the residents of Zürich with high quality housing at rents covering only financing costs with no profit element.

2. Purchasing shares in a Co-op, for a fraction of a house purchase deposit, could provide secure long-term tenancies for some, or for others a ‘half-way house’ while they accumulate a house purchase deposit, potentially affording new opportunities for people to live nearer to their place of work or bring up their families in communities where they were brought up.

3. Development inevitably has negative impacts on the local environment and existing infrastructure while creating new infrastructure needs. Addressing these issues requires capital investment considerably beyond the means of affected communities

4. Such investment should be funded through Land Value Capture. Subject to fair compensation to landowners for the loss of a business asset, the added development value belongs by right to the community, having been created via local / neighbourhood plans and granting of planning consents.

5. The levels of profit currently accruing to landowners as result of the granting of planning consent are, morally and economically, totally indefensible

6. In most situations overnight appreciation of an asset by current value plus 200% is considered a stroke of quite remarkable good fortune and this should be the landowner compensation baseline.

7. Well-connected communities are essential to economic prosperity providing new opportunities within their travel to work area for talented people not wishing to uproot partners or family.

8. There is no realistic hope of investing adequately in transport or other infrastructure while development value is used to make a small proportion of rich people very much richer.

9. The Garden City model provides an optimal mechanism for capturing land value for use in designing and constructing desirable connected communities.

10. This model could potentially be applied to smaller communities, Garden Villages and New Hamlets and to enrich the process of local and neighbourhood planning by addressing the options for reinvesting the proceeds of Land Value Capture.

Conference calls for;

I. Urgent initiatives to develop Housing Cooperatives pilot schemes, across a variety of Local Authorities, including discussions with financial institutions, work on governance charters, land acquisition, planning and implementation.

II. A cross-party initiative on Land Value capture based on the following principles;

a. Even on 2020 figures land value uplift at around 116 times agricultural value is morally and economically unacceptable.

b. Development land value uplift belongs to the community which generates that value by granting planning consent

c. This uplift needs to be retained by the community as capital to address adverse consequences of development subject to fair landowner compensation for business asset loss uses.

III. Simplification of the compulsory purchase process with financial incentives for landowners who do not mount a challenge.

IV. Fairer compensation at current use value +200% for social/affordable housing land acquisition, also applying this rate to land acquisition for all housing and infrastructure uses.

V. All public authorities to be empowered to borrow money for affordable/social housing land acquisition.

VI. Extension of the Garden City model to include clusters of Garden Villages and New Hamlets, designed as low car use connected communities.

VII. Any assets such as sewage and water infrastructure within new or expanded communities that are funded with public money from Land Value Capture or other sources should be retained as public assets managed by not-for-profit enterprises.

2. Emergency action required for sufficient provision of Social and affordable housing

Proposer	To be provided
Summator	Michael Berwick-Gooding
Submitted by	Cumberland Liberal Democrats

Conference notes:

1. The Labour Government promise to build 1.5m new homes by 2029 cannot be fulfilled at the present building rate.

2. The government's pledge in July 2025 to build up to 300,000 affordable homes over a decade, 60% of them for social rent, also appears to be unlikely to be fulfilled.

3. Britain's largest house builder Barratt Redrow has cut back on buying land, and since the start of July had bought enough land to build just more than 4000 homes, compared with more than 15,300 at this point last year.

4. In March 2025 over 1,34 million households were on local authority waiting lists in England, representing an average of roughly 110 households waiting for every new social home built.

5. According to construction industry figures 3,300 modular homes were built in the UK in 2022.

6. A reduction in rented private accommodation is especially affecting young people starting their careers.

Conference believes:

A That the lack of social housing and rented accommodation needed across the country constitutes an emergency which requires new legislation from the Labour Government;

B That local housing targets need to exist as part of delivering an overall national target, which central and local government share responsibility to deliver. Local Planning authorities should co-operate at regional or sub-regional level to ensure that homes are delivered where they are needed.

Conference reaffirms our policy to build 150,000 social homes a year, including council houses, by the end of this parliament.

Conference calls for the Labour Government to act urgently to increase supplies of new-built social and affordable dwellings by:

i Expanding permissible powers to local authorities to build more council owned social homes;

ii Granting hypothecated housing funds to local authorities to fund the building of social homes

iii Requiring English and Welsh local authorities, particularly the new unitary authorities elected in 2026-8, when revising or writing their local plan on land where 10 or more new dwellings are planned or on sites 0.5 hectares or larger, to have the target of at least 40 per cent of new-built dwellings to be social housing for rent

iv Requiring English and Welsh local authorities to invest where possible in local construction companies which will build small modular houses designated for young people to rent or buy, as their first step on the housing ladder

v Encouraging big companies with experience in the past of providing social housing, such as Legal and General and the John Lewis Partnership, to invest in a scheme to be set up by the government to finance social housing both in the planned New Towns and in the cities

vi Investing in conjunction with the major building companies in a new upskilling national education programme to ensure more workers become skilled in the building trades.

EXPLAINER

Neither the Government's own plans nor our own party's commitment to build many thousands of social houses which are badly needed in towns and cities of England and Wales have the slightest chance of fulfilment before the next General Election without urgent new action being undertaken, both by government and by the major councils being set up in all areas this year and the next. There is also a desperate shortage of affordable homes available for young people at the start of their careers which should also be urgently addressed. Liberal Democrats need to urge the Labour Government to take up the plans we propose here.

3. Make the provision of public toilets a statutory provision

Proposer	Richard Thomas
Summator	Stephen Hardy
Submitted by	Bexhill and Battle Liberal Democrats

Motion:

Conference calls upon Liberal Democrats to press for public toilets to be classified as a statutory service, and for legislation to be introduced to give effect to the regulation and funding of the service, including standards relating to the quality, quantity and location of such provision.

Conference Notes:

i. Throughout the U.K., but especially in England, cash-strapped councils are closing toilets

ii. Since 2000, 40% of all public toilets have closed, despite strong opposition from all sections of local communities.

iii. Public toilets are supported by many charities such as Muscular Dystrophy UK, Prostate Concern and the Colostomy Association as well as the Royal Society for Public Health.

iv. Nationally, the Woman's Institute are campaigning for the retention and improvement of public toilets

v. There have been a range of local campaigns including in East Sussex where public officials such as Director of Public Health support the continued availability of public toilets.

Conference Believes:

a. Public toilet provision is an issue concerning health and well-being, equality, social inclusion, and human dignity, as well as the local economy and therefore central to Liberal Democratic values.

b. The lack of public toilets materially harms vulnerable groups, such as older people, pregnant women, families needing changing facilities for babies and young children and people with a range of vulnerabilities. This can create the fear of going out, and consequently trapping people in their own homes

c. Public toilets are also a necessity for outdoor workers such as cab and delivery drivers and emergency responders. The lack of public toilets is associated with an increase in public urination and unsanitary conditions in public spaces.

d. The lack of public toilets adversely affects both the local economy and tourism, involving both residents and visitors from the rest of the UK and abroad, including hikers, walkers and cyclists

Conference Therefore Calls For:

1. Liberal Democrats to press for public toilets to be classified as a statutory service

2. For legislation to be introduced to give effect to the regulation and funding of the service, including standards relating to the quality, quantity and location of such provision.

4. MORTALITY OF CHILDREN IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Proposer Gideon Amos
Summator tbc
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes:

i) That there are over 176,000 children living in temporary accommodation across England;

ii) Mould, damp, rodent infestations, disrepair and electrical faults characterise too much low-quality temporary accommodation, which is also often inaccessible to children with extra needs and which is actively harming the health and wellbeing of children;

iii) Families in Temporary Accommodation are being forced to share kitchen and/or bathroom facilities with single adults placing children at risk from inappropriate behaviour, substance abuse, and violence;

iv) The crisis has led to thousands of households being moved out of their local authority area away from support networks, detrimentally impacting children's lives particularly when their schools and GPs change while they try to carry on with everyday life in an unfamiliar location away from their peers.

v) Families often have less than 24 hours' notice of being required to move whilst the Children's Commissioner found that the more moves a child experiences, the less likely they are to achieve at least 5 GCSEs.

vi) Since 2019, 104 children have died with temporary accommodation listed as a contributing factor to their death, 76 of whom were under the age of one, with deaths attributed to causes including lack of access to cots and Moses baskets, overcrowding, poverty, and the chaos of homelessness.

vii) Living in temporary accommodation violates some of the most basic United Nations Convention Rights of the Child, including the right to life, the right to play, and the right to privacy.

viii) That a high proportion of Temporary Accommodation is within Permitted Development conversions of office, commercial and storage buildings with no requirements for outdoor or play space or even for any outward facing window.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats commitment to:

a) every child having the best possible start in life and to incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into UK law.

b) exempting groups of homeless people, and those at risk of homelessness, from the Shared Accommodation Rate.

c) building 150,000 social rent homes per year and to binding targets for affordable and social housing set by the local authority, who would be allowed to build their own social and affordable housing to meet their targets, using borrowing to do so.

Conference therefore calls on the Government to:

a) commit to ending child mortality where temporary accommodation was a contributing factor to death.

b) Ensure the essential needs of every child for educational, health services, and an adequate standard of living are met;

c) Ensure every child has their best interests taken into account when decisions are made about them or for them by public bodies, including a presumption of not removing them from their local area unless it's in their interests to do so;

d) reduce the number of children living in temporary accommodation through the more ambitious Liberal Democrat target for building 150,000 social homes per year and by giving councils the power to end right to buy in their area;

e) establish minimum standards for outdoor space and natural light for all new homes including those created through permitted development orders and to take powers to require existing conversions to remediated;

f) require routine inspections of properties used as temporary accommodation and provide cots or Moses baskets to all children under the age of 2 in temporary accommodation and to ensure no child is raised in accommodation without cooking facilities.

g) end the mixing of single adults and families in accommodation with shared bathroom and/or kitchen facilities.

5. Planning for Healthy, Sustainable and Prosperous Communities

Proposer	Olly Glover MP
Summator	Cllr Charlie Clinton
Submitted by	16 Party Members

Conference notes that:

I. Tackling the housing crisis requires a massive increase in house building as well as supporting infrastructure.

II. Tackling the healthcare crisis requires an increase in community healthcare facilities to improve access to care and reduce pressure on hospitals.

III. Tackling the climate crisis requires local energy generation and storage, and local infrastructure to support sustainable transport policies.

IV. The planning system operates across multiple tiers which vary across the country due to a patchwork of combined authorities and local governance arrangements.

V. The lack of legal mandate or accountability for infrastructure within this system results in many developments being built without the infrastructure required to support growth.

VI. Research in 2024 showed that councils in England & Wales were sitting on an estimated £8bn in unspent CIL & S106 funds.

VII. Labour's Planning and Infrastructure Act fails to require that housing growth is matched by infrastructure provision.

VIII. The Act further weakens infrastructure planning by enabling the removal or downgrading of statutory consultees.

IX. Labour rejected all Liberal Democrat amendments requiring infrastructure to be planned for alongside new housing.

Conference believes that:

A. The scale of development required to tackle the housing crisis presents an opportunity to transform our society, particularly tackling the healthcare and climate crises.

B. Housing delivery without adequate infrastructure, or which takes away existing infrastructure & amenities without replacement, undermines quality of life and drives opposition to developments.

C. Rolling back the role of infrastructure and delivery bodies in the planning system is the wrong response to slow housing delivery.

D. Councils are often forced to compromise on infrastructure when approving planning applications because the lack of legal requirements favours developers.

E. Clear, mandatory infrastructure requirements will enable faster housing development overall by reducing uncertainty, delay and opposition – while delivering better outcomes.

F. CIL & s106 funds should be spent in a timely fashion.

Conference reaffirms our commitment to existing housing policies including:

i. Building 380,000 new homes per year, including 150,000 social homes

ii. Community-led development to ensure meaningful engagement with local residents

iii. Strong building safety standards to ensure buildings are fit to live in

iv. Ending exploitative housing practices by strengthening renters' rights (building on the Renter's Rights Act), abolishing leasehold and abolishing 'fleecehold'.

v. Mandatory inclusion of solar panels on new homes

Conference resolves to:

1. Create a new definition of critical infrastructure which includes but is not limited to: healthcare, transport, energy, utilities, schools, community facilities, amenities and green/open space.

2. Strengthen existing cross-boundary planning arrangements by introducing a formal duty for planning authorities at different tiers to agree, document, and publish how responsibility for critical infrastructure is allocated between them before plans are adopted.

3. Require critical infrastructure providers (including at minimum the NHS, Utilities, Transport authorities, Environment Agency) to consult and agree on regional and local plans with planning authorities, with those providers then legally required to deliver the agreed infrastructure, ensuring:

a) greater accountability for infrastructure providers

b) greater clarity up front for developers, and a streamlined consultation process on each planning application

4. Require planning authorities to act in accordance with these agreements, with local plans unable to be adopted unless they incorporate the agreed infrastructure and identify appropriate funding.

5. Ensure that these plans contribute to tackling the health and climate crises by specifically requiring:

a) Appropriate space for community-based healthcare

b) Area-based renewable energy generation and storage wherever practical

6. Create a presumption that councils can reject planning applications which do not deliver against those plans, giving councils the leverage they need while retaining discretion to ensure housing targets are met.

7. Ensure developers submit legally binding infrastructure delivery plans tied to the local plans, with phasing linked to forecast occupation – failure to comply leading to the use of existing sanctions for non-compliance with approved plans.

8. Protect community assets by establishing a presumption that where development results in the loss of key facilities (e.g. community centres, well used amenities), these will be replaced wherever possible.

9. Reform management of CIL & S106 to force accountability on local authorities and ensure timely delivery of infrastructure by:

a) Strengthening public reporting on collection, allocation, unspent balances, and s106 funds which had to be returned to developers – increasing transparency and enabling challenges.

b) Introducing a statutory duty for CIL funds to be allocated to infrastructure projects within a specified time period, and for those projects to be progressed within a further defined period

c) Enabling intervention by the Secretary of State where CIL timelines are not met, or a defined % of s106 funds are lost, under the “best value” powers enshrined in the Local Government Act 1999.

6. Local candidate and elected official safety

Proposer	TBC
Summator	TBC
Submitted by	LGA/ALDC

Introduction: This is an issue of growing importance, while it is not covered in the Defending Democracy working paper, the motion sits well alongside it.

The resolves section reflects recent amendments tabled by Zöe Franklin MP, our Local Government Spokesperson, to the Representation of the People Bill currently before Parliament.

Conference Notes

The murders of Jo Cox MP and Sir David Amess MP, and the manslaughter of Cllr Andrew Pennington and attempted murder of Nigel Jones MP.

That research shows a growing level of abuse and threats of violence towards both candidates in elections and elected officials at all levels.

A Local Government Association survey of councillors carried out just last year as part of its “Debate not Hate” campaign found that :

52 per cent of councillors replying reported that they have had untrue or misleading information about their political or personal conduct publicly published, with respondents warning of the “dangers to democracy”;

64 per cent said they had experienced abuse online, including social media platforms, while 59 per cent said they’d experienced in person abuse.

That women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, disabled people, and LGBTQ+ people are subject to disproportionately high levels of abuse, intimidation and threats.

That a survey in 2026 Local Government Chronicle survey reported that 52% of respondents said concern about online abuse affected decisions to whether to stand or re-stand.

That the Guardian reported on 7 May 2026 that parties had described abuse during the 2026 devolved and local election campaigns as the “worst year in memory”.

The role of social media in enabling abuse, threats, harassment and misinformation to be directed at candidates and elected officials easily, repeatedly and at scale.

Conference further notes

The creation of Operation Bridger and Operation Ford to deal with violence and threats against, respectively, MPs and parliamentary candidates, and councillors and local candidates.

The effectiveness and responsiveness of police forces to threats and abuse under Operation Ford is highly variable from force to force.

Abuse and threats are not limited to elected representatives and candidates but can be directed towards, or involve, spouses, partners and children, and staff.

That Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights protects an individuals’ rights to hold and express opinions.

Conference believes that

Abuse, threats and violence have a chilling impact on democracy. They stifles debate, discourages individual involvement in civic life and discourages people, in particular those most likely to face abuse, from standing or re-standing for elected office and leadership positions.

Freedom of expression and debate is an essential part of a liberal society and there will always be the need to balance protecting elected officials and protecting everyone’s right to freedom of speech.

There is a difference between robust debate and criticism, and even rudeness, on the one hand and threats, violence and repetitive abuse on the other.

Directing abuse at, or involving, the families and children of elected officials is always wrong. In the 2025 LGA Debate Not Hate survey, one fifth of councillors replying said that they have had a threat of violence or death against themselves, this rose to one quarter if you included threats against someone close to them

The publication of elected officials' and candidates' home addresses is not necessary within a modern democratic society when there are multiple routes to communicate with elected representatives.

Social media companies have a duty to deal with illegal and threatening behaviour on their sites, which is not being fully met.

Conference resolves that

The law should be amended so that no candidate is required, or given a default option, to publish their home address as part of the nomination process for any election, and so that home address forms are available only to those with a clear and legitimate statutory reason to view them.

Election agents should be able to use a party office, or other approved election correspondence address as their legal office address where publication of their home address would create a personal safety or privacy risk.

Returning officers should have a new duty to validate the home address statements of candidates in elections.

The Electoral Commission should produce a code of practice for election officials, drawing together all the necessary information related to the safety and security of candidates in local elections. Returning officers should have a duty to share such information with candidates.

Hostility towards relatives and staff of elected officials and candidates should be a statutory aggravating factor in any offence committed and should lead to a disqualification order under the Elections Act 2022.

Police forces should be placed under a clear duty to implement Operation Ford consistently, ensuring frontline officers understand the scheme, recording relevant incidents as Operation Ford incidents where appropriate, and reporting annually on abuse, threats, harassment and violence against candidates and elected officials.

Operation Ford needs a large increase in funding if it is to be effective.

Guidance to police forces and prosecutors should make clear that repeated, targeted or escalating behaviour should be assessed cumulatively, rather than each incident being considered only in isolation.

That the new unit within the National Crime Agency proposed within the Liberal Democrat policy paper 'Defending Democracy' should include advising police forces on how to handle abuse, threats and violence against local elected officials, just as they already provide specialist advice for MPs, including considering the cumulative impact of abusive behaviour on individuals.

That a UK-wide support service for local elected officials should be set up, jointly by the local government associations operating in the nations of the UK, to provide confidential advice and support, to fast track the most serious cases to the relevant police force, and, in the most serious cases, to provide grants funded by the Home Office, for home security, CCTV and personal panic alarms.

That social media firms operating in the UK should have a statutory responsibility to tackle abuse against elected officials and be required to provide a support line, staffed by humans, for political parties' HQs and UK -wide support service to report the most serious cases of online abuse and harm to.

Notes

https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/741/speakers-conference-2024/news/207133/speakers-conference-reports-on-abuse-and-intimidation-of-mps-and-election-candidates/

https://www.lgcplus.com/politics/governance-and-structure/ministers-pledge-on-rapidly-escalating-councillor-abuse-05-06-2026/

https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/countering-harassment-and-intimidation-of-elected-representatives

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/may/07/parties-election-climate-abuse-campaign-trail

https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/4080/stages/20676/amendments/10035016

https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/4080/stages/20536/amendments/10034652

Debate Not Hate: Survey of councillors 2025 | Local Government Association

Culture, Media and Sport Motions

1. Making Music Matter

Proposer Anna Sabine MP
Summator TBC
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes:

i. The UK music industry remains one of the nation's most significant economic pillars, contributing £8 billion to the UK economy in gross value added, and employing more than 220,000 people in 2024.

ii. The Government has undermined trust with the creative industries by stating a preferred "opt-out" approach to AI content use, before dropping this position following sectoral pressure.

iii. That artists are particularly concerned about the impact of AI on the industry, with 90 percent in favour of protections to stop their work being used without permission or payment.

iv. The voluntary uptake of the Grassroots Ticket Levy remains underwhelming, with only 28 percent of large venues implementing the levy, with progress reportedly hampered by large ticket distribution organisations.

v. Europe-wide touring for British musicians has been severely disadvantaged by bureaucratic post-Brexit barriers, including costly visas, carnets and permits, and the Government has failed to achieve tangible progress for musicians as part of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

vi. While the Government's curriculum review response has committed to ensuring children have access to a well-rounded creative education, funding for Music Hubs remains 19 percent below 2011 levels in real terms.

Conference believes:

a. The cultural and creative industries are a primary engine of long-term economic growth, local community rejuvenation and international soft power for the United Kingdom.

b. Human creativity must be protected, valued and fairly remunerated, and that technological innovation can and should support the artistic community.

c. The scraping of British creative content by foreign AI companies is fundamentally a question of sovereignty and trust.

d. Grassroots music venues, which form the lifeblood of the UK's world-leading music ecosystem, are closing at an alarming rate due to rising development pressures and a lack of systemic financial support.

e. Every child, regardless of background or educational needs, has a fundamental right to a rich, high-quality creative education, including music.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat pledges to:

1. Reverse real-terms cuts to Music Hubs since 2011, with a 19% increase in funding followed by a commitment to annual increases in line with inflation.

2. Impose a statutory large venue levy to fund grassroots venues, alongside a VAT cut for grassroots music venues.

3. Fully enforce the "Agent of Change" principle by blocking developments nearby existing music venues that lack strict soundproofing, and applying it to all noise complaints against existing venues.

Conference calls on the Government to invest in music education by:

i. Reinstating Music PGCE bursaries to attract talented musicians into the classroom with the aim of hiring an additional 1,000 music teachers.

ii. Redirecting the £25 million fund for new instruments into a national repairs and maintenance programme, and accelerating plans to introduce a musical instrument maintenance and repair technician apprenticeship.

iii. Providing music hubs with multi-year funding settlements directly from DfE budgets, and supporting local councils to offer both individual and group music tuition classes for reduced fees, supported by an Arts Pupil Premium of at least £90 million per year.

iv. Ensuring music and creative subjects are embedded into core accountability frameworks.

v. Guaranteeing access to music education for children with SEND.

Conference further calls on the Government to ensure a fair deal for musicians and creatives by:

a. Confirming that existing UK copyright law applies to content used to train AI models, and mandating transparency in AI training data, so that creators and rights-holders can identify when their work has been used with clear routes to redress.

b. Establishing a clear and transparent opt-in licensing model with fair remuneration for musicians whose work is used to train AI systems, and committing to a review on directing revenue from licensing deals towards grassroots music artists and music education.

c. Supporting the development of creator collectives for independent musicians, enabling collective licensing negotiation at scale and ensuring fair market access for artists without major-label backing

d. Introducing image, voice and personality rights, protecting musicians and performers from unauthorised deepfakes and synthetic reproductions of their likeness, voice or performance.

e. Requiring music streaming platforms to clearly label AI-generated content on their platforms.

Conference further calls on the Government to supercharge growth in the music and live events sector by:

1. Rejoining the EU single market and Creative Europe, and entering into a customs union with the EU, to provide touring artists with expanded opportunities and frictionless travel for themselves and their instruments.

2. Expanding the UK Music Export Growth Scheme and putting it on a permanent statutory footing, supporting emerging artists to build international careers.

3. Establishing a network of Culture Envoys, modelled on the existing UK Trade Envoys system, to champion British creative talent across the globe and secure reciprocal access for touring artists.

4. Championing equitable remuneration for streaming, ensuring performers receive a fair share of streaming revenues alongside record labels.

5. Extending orchestral tax relief to choirs.

2. Pride and Preservation: Restoring our Heritage

Proposer	Anna Sabine MP
Summator	TBC
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes:

A. The immense cultural and economic value of the UK's historic environment, with the heritage sector contributing an estimated £44.9 billion in Gross Value Added to the economy and supporting over 523,000 jobs nationwide.

B. The precarious state of our built history, as evidenced by Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, which currently identifies 5,490 heritage assets across the country facing immediate threat from neglect, decay, or inappropriate development.

C. The critical role of heritage tourism in boosting regional and local economies, with domestic heritage-related day visits generating £11.6 billion and overnight trips contributing £4.5 billion annually.

D. The severe workforce crisis in traditional heritage occupations, driven by a devastating 40% decline in apprenticeship starts over the past decade; notably, there are now only four dedicated diploma-level courses for stonemasonry remaining across the entire United Kingdom.

Conference believes:

i. Our historic buildings, civic infrastructure, and listed places of worship form the bedrock of local identity, community cohesion, and civic pride across every nation in our United Kingdom.

ii. Unnecessary bureaucratic red tape and short-term, volatile funding cycles place an unfair and unsustainable burden on local trusts, volunteer groups, and faith communities working to keep community heritage alive.

iii. Access to history and culture should be a universal right, not a luxury, and removing financial and curricular barriers for children and young people is essential to building a positive sense of identity and belonging.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat pledges to:

A. Introduce a dedicated Minister of State for Tourism and Hospitality.

Conference calls on the Government to ensure listed heritage buildings are preserved for future generations by:

1. Supporting the "At Risk Heritage Fund" and exploring how it could become a permanent capital investment scheme after 2029.

2. Restoring the uncapped VAT relief available under the old Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, and increasing funding to £42 million per year.

3. Simplifying the application process for the “Places of Worship Renewal Fund” grant scheme for listed places of worship, and extending it to cover Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

4. Committing to a multi-year funding settlement for both schemes to provide certainty for listed places of worship.

5. Addressing workforce shortages in heritage occupations and stonemasonry by working with public heritage bodies on properly-funded apprenticeship routes in the sector.

6. Streamlining the Historic England listing process and strengthening the use of emergency Building Preservation Notices, enabling rapid, temporary protection orders on historic buildings facing immediate, unauthorised demolition.

Conference also calls on the Government to champion the UK’s heritage on both the domestic and international stage by:

1. Supporting heritage sites to apply for UNESCO status, with a dedicated team in DCMS to provide support and resources on best practice for applications.

2. Working with VisitBritain and its subsidiary boards to encourage domestic travel to heritage sites as part of a wider domestic tourism strategy.

3. Applying for Capital of Culture status for a UK city at the earliest possible date following entry into the EU Single Market.

4. Creating a young person’s “Heritage Pass”, collating membership of several heritage bodies and allowing free and subsidised access to national heritage sites.

5. Giving schools the flexibility to teach local history as part of their curriculum.

Digital, Science, Innovation and Technology Motions

1. Hold Social Media companies to account, not Social Media users

Proposer Michael Carthew

Summator James Bradley

Submitted by 12 Party Members

Conference notes that over the last 30 years, all aspects of society have continually and overwhelmingly shifted to the online space. While this has increased accessibility and opened horizons, social media giants have been making their content increasingly addictive while failing to keep their users safe by allowing discrimination, abuse and harassment on their platforms of both children and adults.

Conversely, blanket bans targeting access to online spaces run a strong risk of excluding people entirely from access to public discussion and debate, as well as access to other information. Certain groups such as the LGBT+ community are particularly at risk of isolation. This is holding users to account for the failures of multinational companies.

The proposed approaches to internet regulation propose creating a two-tier system by de-anonymising the user through the process of age verification. The process of verifying children therefore requires verifying all users and in turn exposing all users to potential privacy violations by unaccountable verification companies.

This is an authoritarian approach that seeks to introduce digital ID through the back door. It is ineffective as we have seen in Australia where 60% of children have been able to bypass the bans, while harming personal freedoms and putting all user data at risk.

Conference reaffirms that the Liberal Democrats are a Liberal party and must oppose bans of social media in all their forms. Previous approaches have attempted to liberalise what is a fundamentally broken, unworkable, authoritarian policy. This is the wrong approach and as a Liberal Party we should be seeking to put the onus on the Social Media Giants to stop and prevent abuses via the weaknesses in their platforms.

Conference Resolves:

1. To oppose authoritarian blanket bans on social media usage in all their forms.

2. To Call upon Social Media Companies to improve and strengthen their regulations to keep children as safe as possible on their platforms within appropriate time frames.

3. To Call for the government to award unlimited fines on Social Media companies that fail to strengthen their regulations within appropriate time frames and remove their tax breaks.

2. Regulating Social Media & Search Engine Companies: Bringing them in line with UK Broadcast Standards

Proposer	Andrew Jenner
Summator	Jake Short
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference believes that:

Social media can offer powerful benefits by fostering instant global connections, providing vital social support, and enabling creative self-expression.

Social networks can act as catalysts for social change and empower users to raise global awareness for causes they care about.

Search engines empower continuous learning by being the web's librarians, helping users locate specialised answers, tutorials, and diverse perspectives.

Business Growth and Marketing via Social media platforms and search engines level the playing field, allowing businesses to reach highly targeted and localised audiences.

Social media and fake advertising degrade the internet ecosystem by eroding user trust, amplifying toxic content, degrading mental health, facilitating financial scams and accelerating data privacy violations.

Social media platforms inherently prioritise engagement-driven metrics and profitability over user safety. Voluntary moderation has consistently fallen short in curbing disinformation, hate speech, advertising scams and mental health harms.

Conference calls:

For a new policy paper with proposals to make all Social Media and Search Engine Companies be considered as Publishers and Broadcasters, and so must acquire Ofcom Broadcast licenses and abide by the Ofcom Broadcasting Code.

And that Adverts are governed by the UK Code of Broadcasting Advertising. Creating a level playing field for all publishing platforms.

Conference believes this will ensure:

All Social Media companies and search engines be required to hold an Ofcom broadcast licence to enable them to operate in the UK.

Licensed Social Media companies and search engines comply with Ofcom’s Broadcasting Code, which ensures protections for audiences from harmful content.

Social Media companies and search engines will be assessed by Ofcom to be fit and proper to hold a licence.

Adverts will be governed by the UK Code of Broadcast Advertising (BCAP Code) to ensure they are legal, decent, honest, and truthful.

Trust and confidence for UK audiences to have in the standards of online content that they access on a daily basis.

3. Sovereignty in the Age of AI

Proposer	Victoria Collins MP
Summator	TBC
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes:

i. The UK is a global powerhouse in the tech sector, and a world leader in artificial intelligence, with the third largest market in the entire world.

ii. The UK's academic and research foundations are world-leading, with the UK ranking first among all G7 countries for field-weighted citation impact in science and technology research.

iii. That 71% of UK businesses cite unclear rules as a barrier to adopting AI, and 57% of the banking sector cite regulatory uncertainty as an investment barrier.

iv. That 93% of seed-funded startups fail to access follow-on funding in the UK, creating a severe Series B scale-up funding gap.

v. That a stark AI skills divide is growing in our schools, which leaves state school teachers half as likely to receive formal AI training as private school teachers.

vi. 55% of central government organisations host over 60% of their digital estate on clouds supplied by just two US-based providers, making our critical digital infrastructure vulnerable.

Conference believes:

a. Only a distinctly liberal approach can empower people to seize the benefits of AI, balancing innovation with holding powerful big tech companies to account.

b. Britain has the talent, research base and skills to lead the world in responsible AI, and needs a government willing to back that ambition.

c. Deep public and business trust is the essential engine connecting technological adoption, regulatory certainty, and long-term commercial investment.

d. AI investment must be integrated directly into an industrial strategy to solve real problems across priority sectors like healthcare, energy, and manufacturing.

e. Digital infrastructure expansion must be sustainable, strategic, and purposefully planned to ensure people benefit directly from investment in their communities.

f. Education must focus on enduring, foundational skills like critical thinking and problem-solving, rather than merely tool-specific knowledge that transforms rapidly.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat pledges to:

1. Increase research budgets with inflation and move towards multi-year funding settlements, and commit to introducing a national and international science and technology strategy that raises R&D spending to 3.5% of GDP.

2. Quintuple proof of concept funding to £200 million across five years.

3. Create a network of regional innovation centres across the UK, ensuring every nation and major English region can support university-industry collaboration with state-of-the-art research facilities.

4. Introduce government-backed seed funding loans for companies borne from university research, and expand the definition of commercialisation so university-derived SMEs and student startups are eligible.

5. Attract international talent by reforming visa processes to replace arbitrary salary thresholds with a flexible merit-based system and allowing Masters and PhD students to found startups during their studies.

Conference calls on the Government to back British innovation and remove barriers to financing by:

i. Closing the scale-up gaps by reviewing the £250,000 SEIS limit and creating a scientist-led upfront pre-clearance system for R&D tax reliefs.

ii. Prioritising world-leading British tech in public contracts and trialling a 30% 'social value' requirement for the procurement of digital services.

iii. Integrating AI into industrial strategies under a new Department for Growth, and extending Treasury and OBR forecast horizons to assess long-term technological impacts and provide certainty to investors.

iv. Creating “AI Sandbox” programmes in partnership with local authorities, where startups and local SMEs can test new AI service models in small-scale realistic settings.

v. Developing an AI Compute Foundations Strategy prioritising domestic strengths in low-power inference, chip design, and edge AI.

Conference also calls on the Government to build trust amongst the public through empowering individuals to use AI by:

a. Establishing a National People’s Strategy which integrates AI skills into the curriculum, and continuing training throughout an individual’s professional life with an AI training guarantee for adults.

b. Widening the scope of the AI Security Institute to include ethical considerations, ensuring that AI systems are developed to use data responsibly and do not entrench existing inequalities.

c. Securing international leadership by upholding the Council of Europe AI Framework Convention and using it to pioneer enforceable, multilateral standards for democratic AI governance.

Conference further calls on the Government to ensure communities can benefit from AI opportunities by:

1. Developing a comprehensive digital sovereignty strategy using strategic sovereign procurement policy to protect critical public functions from total foreign dependence.

2. Requiring all new AI infrastructure to meet community benefit standards, ensuring local populations directly gain from new developments through local jobs, skills training and directing their waste heat to district heating networks or to generating electricity.

3. Confronting the AI energy dilemma by commissioning independent demand assessments and establishing regional data clusters and AI Growth Zones, designed alongside industry and connected directly to target sectors.

4. Ensuring rural and remote communities can fully seize the opportunities of the AI age through a national commitment to roll out gigabit broadband to every home and business, while embedding access and upskilling hubs in local libraries and community centres.

Economy and Business Motions

1. Liberal Democrats mean business

Proposer Daisy Cooper
Summator TBC
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference believes that:

i. Business is Britain's engine of national prosperity: it creates good jobs, fosters thriving local areas, drives innovation and helps fund our public services.

ii. Business is also the vehicle enabling millions of people to create something new, make the most of their own skills and talents, and build a new community.

iii. The Liberal Democrats are the natural party of business, as the only truly internationalist, pro-enterprise and fiscally responsible political force, advocating for a mutually-beneficial partnership between the public and private sector.

iv. Liberals have always championed free trade, fair markets and dynamic enterprise, while enabling people to have a meaningful stake in the rewards of economic growth.

Conference notes that:

Britain's businesses have been failed by Labour's two anti-growth budgets and years of Conservative Party mismanagement, culminating in the mini-Budget.

The Labour Government has saddled businesses, especially high street SMEs, with an unfair jobs tax and damaging business rates hikes.

Business is now threatened by Nigel Farage, who masterminded the shambolic Brexit deal and is more interested in cheering on Donald Trump’s chaotic tariff wars and promoting the interests of his bitcoin billionaire backers, than backing British families and firms.

Barriers to accessing finance are forcing start-ups and scale-ups to go overseas to raise capital.

Our tax system was not built for a modern economy of software, IP and intangible assets, and it holds back innovation and companies with potential for high growth.

Tax compliance costs small businesses an estimated £25bn a year, with the average firm losing 44 hours and £4,500 to form-filling.

Youth unemployment is undermining a whole generation, while sectors that provide many people’s first jobs, such as hospitality, are under mounting pressure.

Labour’s Employment Rights Act failed to strike the right balance, putting disproportionate burdens on businesses while introducing only limited improvements for workers.

Liberal Democrats secured a six-month qualifying period for protection from unfair dismissal in the Employment Rights Act, a fair and balanced result for businesses and workers.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to:

Build an economy that works for everyone, fostering diverse business ownership models – including mutuals, social enterprises and community interest companies

Tackle the productivity crisis by encouraging businesses to invest in training, take up digital technologies and become more energy efficient.

Conference therefore resolves to back British business to get Britain growing again, end the cost-of-living crisis and raise people's living standards for the long-term.

Conference further calls on the Government to:

Create a "one-stop-shop" for businesses with government, by splitting the Treasury into a new Department for Growth and a Department for Public Expenditure; merging the current Department for Business and Trade into the new Department for Growth; and ensuring that businesses each have a single account manager, and that policies affecting business are aligned across departments.

Launch an ambitious drive to cut the bureaucratic burden on British businesses, especially SMEs, streamlining and consolidating regulation, providing better guidance and information through the Department for Growth "one-stop-shop" – while safeguarding consumer protections, workers' rights and EU alignment.

Conduct a rolling impact assessment keeping track of the cumulative tax burden on small businesses, especially those with high staff and premises costs such as hospitality, retail accommodation and attractions.

Create clear incentives for businesses to recruit and train young people, including making it urgently reinstating a lower National Insurance Contributions rate for part-time workers, including young people.

Improve access to finance, including by raising the Venture Capital Trusts limit and Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme limit, which at £250,000 barely covers today's startup costs, so founders can grow here, not overseas.

Back innovative scale-ups by extending full expensing to intangibles such as software and IP, and draw from the Dutch and South African R&D pre-clearance systems in which claims are assessed upfront by scientists and engineers, not tax compliance teams.

Commit to championing competition and regulatory changes to tackle high energy prices affecting small businesses, including making energy contracts more transparent and expanding access to the Energy Ombudsman for all SMEs.

Give workers a stronger voice in designing companies' AI-adoption policies, and in making the most of AI job augmentation, by championing employee representation on company boards for large and UK-listed companies.

Recognise the unique contribution of family businesses to long-term growth, noting their focus on long-term stewardship and community engagement, and ensure banks understand family governance models, so they can offer family firms the types of growth capital they need.

2. Stronger manufacturing for a richer and safer UK

Proposer Daisy Cooper
Summator Sarah Olney
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference believes that:

i. A strong manufacturing base is essential for growth, good jobs and our sovereign capabilities - producing critical infrastructure from grid components and wind turbines, to jet engines and munitions.

ii. In a dangerous and unstable world, sovereign manufacturing capabilities are a matter of national security, and depend on a competitive and resilient industrial base.

iii. Leading Liberal industrialists of the 18th and 19th centuries shaped modern Britain, campaigning against tariffs, striking free trade deals, helping secure voting rights, and fighting for better housing and education for workers.

iv. Liberal Democrats remain the party of free, fair and open trade, and of active partnership between government and industry.

Conference notes with concern that:

UK manufacturing supports 2.6 million jobs, contributes around £220bn to the economy and accounts for nearly half of UK R&D expenditure, yet faces its toughest conditions in a generation.

Due to rising costs, around one in four manufacturers are now moving production overseas or actively considering it, and 20% have reduced headcount.

British manufacturers pay some of the highest industrial electricity prices in the developed world, and our exit from the EU electricity market has increased total UK energy costs by nearly £400m a year.

The sector carries roughly 50,000 unfilled vacancies which hold back growth and productivity.

More than half of companies are yet to see any benefit from the Government's industrial strategy, and the Business Industrial Competitiveness energy support scheme (BICS) will support fewer than 1 in 10 manufacturing firms, and not until April 2027.

Trading with our biggest and closest market remains needlessly costly and complex since Brexit, due to rules-of-origin checks and regulatory burdens.

While we must shield UK steel producers from unfair Chinese state-aid practices, Labour's steel quotas risk dealing a hammer-blow to British manufacturers, as they apply to a range of steel grades not produced domestically.

Donald Trump's tariffs and his illegal Iran war are destabilising global trade, raising energy costs and undermining the stability on which investment depends.

Conference further notes with concern that the Government's delay in publishing the Defence Investment Plan left firms without the certainty they need to invest, hire and plan; and forced some companies to lay off staff, lose contracts overseas, and even go out of business.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to:

Replace business rates with a Commercial Landowner Levy, which would cut tax bills on manufacturing premises.

Reform apprenticeships to make them more flexible for employers and trainees.

Significantly expand renewable energy generation and invest in grid capacity to bring down energy costs.

Implement a £20bn defence bonds programme, and use it to drive investment, research & development, jobs and growth in the domestic defence manufacturing sector.

Conference therefore calls on the Government to:

Speed up delivery of the Industrial Strategy, expand the British Industrial Competitiveness energy support scheme (BICS) to more companies, and bring forward its current April 2027 start date.

Cut industrial energy costs by permanently moving all old Renewables Obligation contracts to the Contracts for Difference model, and by introducing more efficient energy trading arrangements with the EU; and rule out adding any new policy levies to industrial energy bills.

Provide manufacturing SMEs with low-interest loans to invest in energy-saving tech, through a new Energy Security Bank.

Urgently amend the steel quota regime introduced on July 1st to remove steel grades not produced in the UK, such as specialist steels used in aerospace, defence and precision engineering.

Be a clear pro-trade and anti-tariff voice against Donald Trump's trade wars, and negotiate with our EU partners to scrap damaging rules-of-origin checks.

Boost private sector investment in defence SMEs and scale-ups, including through a new programme of Government guarantees, similar to what is offered through the British Business Bank, to make lenders more comfortable with uncertain cashflows.

Ensure that procurement practices are as SME-friendly as possible – properly recognising social value; easing turnover and guarantee requirements; and introducing SME-only defence contracts to widen access to direct MOD work.

Create a focused delivery plan for more UK-based manufacturing of key new industrial technologies - such as hydrogen, energy storage and robotics - and ensure that this delivers tangible community benefits, especially for the deindustrialised regions.

Launch a "Buy British" advertising campaign to champion UK-based manufacturers.

3. Reclaiming Community Wealth

Proposer Tom Hughes
Summator Tony Vickers
Submitted by AO: ALTER: Action for Land Taxation & Economic Reform

Reclaiming Community Wealth

Conference recognises that:

A. Availability of housing is vital for an individual's economic mobility and for a fully realised life.

B. Thriving high streets and vibrant local communities bring happiness and fulfilment to many.

C. Adequately and securely funded local services have an enormous power to improve lives.

D. Good public policy and publicly funded infrastructure investments increase local land values.

E. The value of a community's land is created by the community and belongs to that community.

Conference notes with concern:

i) Entrenched Inequality.

According to the Office for National Statistics (2020-2022), the richest 10% of UK households have wealth in excess of £1.2 million, while the poorest 10% have just £16,500 or less. Wealth inequality is greater than income inequality, and the largest proportion of this is net property wealth (40%). The Gini coefficient, which measures inequality, recorded household wealth at 0.59 in 2022, while disposable income stood at 0.36.

ii) Stagnant Growth.

Since the 2008 financial crisis, annual GDP growth in the UK has slowed to an average of around 1.5% between 2009 and 2023, and GDP per head has stagnated. The UK tax burden is at now its highest sustained level since the late 1940s, with total tax revenues around 37.7% of GDP.

iii) Underfunded Services.

After accounting for population growth, the spending power of local government fell 27.5% in real terms from 2010 to 2020, and it will still be 13.7% lower in real terms in 2028/29 than back in 2010/11.

iv) Increasing Unrest.

A viable, positive and sustainable alternative to both the socio-economic status quo and the rise of political extremism within and beyond the UK is more urgent than ever.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to:

a. Replace Business Rates with a Commercial Landowner Levy.

b. Reform the outdated and unfair Council Tax.

c. Replace Stamp Duty, which is a barrier to mobility.

d. Switch the basis of taxation from work to wealth.

Conference therefore calls on the government to:

1. Carry out a mass appraisal of land values in the UK, expedited by new technological methods.

2. Levy a Land Value Tax and use the revenue collected from it to cut or outright replace existing taxes on productive economic activity.

3. Carry out annual revaluations, and use any growth in revenue from the Land Value Tax to fund further cuts to taxes on productive activity.

4. State that the optimal UK taxation system will levy a "full" Land Value Tax, where the maximum practical percentage of the annual economic rental value of land is reclaimed for the public good.

5. Set out a clear timeline of incremental increases in the tax rate to achieve a full Land Value Tax, should the initial rate fall short of this.

6. Ensure deferral options for asset-rich, cash-poor land and real estate owners, and fair redistribution formulae for local, regional and devolved governments.

4. A Fair Shot: Reforming Recruitment

Proposer TBC

Summator TBC

Submitted by AO: Young Liberals

Conference notes with concern that:

A. Over 1 million young people aged 16-24 are not in education, employment or training.

B. The Milburn Review found “Entry-level roles have become less plentiful and more demanding. Recruitment has become more remote, more automated and less human.”

C. Research conducted by University College London showed that disadvantaged and ethnic minority graduates have lower job offer rates, with huge disparities at both the initial application stage and online test stage.

D. The Information Commissioners Office has found that employers were using “solely automated systems without meaningful human involvement” when making hiring decisions and concluded that there is a need for greater transparency and improved safeguards.

Conference believes:

i) Fair hiring practices are essential for ensuring equality of opportunity.

ii) Job applicants deserve honesty and openness regarding both roles they apply for, and the hiring process used, including any automation used.

iii) The use of automation does not remove human accountability for decisions taken.

iv) Employers should be free to choose whom to hire within fair, lawful and transparent recruitment processes.

Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:

1. Develop a Fair Recruitment Code for externally advertised job vacancies, in consultation with Acas, regulators, industry bodies, employers, recruiters, trade unions, job boards and youth and disability organisations.

2. Ensure the code sets standards for transparency regarding:

a) Job adverts, including stating minimum pay and vacancy status.

b) The use of recruitment tests and automation, including stating what is assessed, and their role in decision making.

c) Notification of outcome, including a requirement to notify all applicants of the status of their application by a specified date.

d) The use and remuneration of applicant work when used commercially or operationally.

e) Stage-level equality monitoring, limited to large volume recruiters.

3. Promote the widespread adoption of the code, requiring its adoption by Government departments, agencies and other government funded employers, producing code-compliant templates and working with job boards, recruiter platforms and industry bodies to embed the code’s standards through sector agreements.

4. Create a single online service which directs complaints regarding code breaches to the appropriate advice body or regulator.

5. Review the code annually and introduce targeted legal requirements and necessary enforcement measures where any standard is widely unmet.

5. Universal Land Registration and Transparent Beneficial Ownership

Proposer David Case

Summator Richard Marbrow

Submitted by Clwyd East & Flintshire Liberal Democrats

Conference notes that:

A significant proportion of land in the UK remains unregistered, despite the system of land registration having existed since the Land Registration Act 1925 and being strengthened under the Land Registration Act 2002.

Unregistered land and opaque ownership structures, including trusts and nominee arrangements, undermine transparency, impede effective taxation, and frustrate land use planning and housing delivery.

Hidden or unclear ownership can hinder enforcement action in relation to environmental offences such as fly-tipping and land misuse.

The UK has taken steps toward transparency through measures such as the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022, but significant gaps remain in domestic land ownership transparency.

Liberal Democrats have a historic commitment to land reform, fairness, and transparency, rooted in the work of David Lloyd George and the “People’s Budget,” which sought to ensure land wealth contributed fairly to society.

Conference believes that:

Transparency of land ownership is essential for a fair, efficient, and accountable economy.

Those who benefit from land ownership should contribute fairly in taxation based on true beneficial ownership, not merely legal title.

Modern land governance should support environmental protection, community empowerment, and efficient housing delivery.

It is no longer acceptable for land in the UK to remain outside a comprehensive and transparent registration system.

Reform must balance fairness with legal certainty and proportionality, ensuring that legitimate owners are protected while long-term opacity is ended.

Conference calls for:

Universal Land Registration

The introduction of compulsory registration of all land in England and Wales within 5–7 years.

A fully digital, accessible register maintained by HM Land Registry.

Beneficial Ownership Transparency

A requirement that all registered titles include a clear and publicly accessible record of beneficial ownership interests.

Measures to prevent the use of trusts, nominee arrangements, or offshore entities to obscure true ownership.

Enforcement and Completion Mechanisms

A structured process to identify and register currently unregistered land.

Where reasonable efforts to register land fail, a mechanism for vesting such land in the public domain, subject to safeguards and rights of appeal.

Restoration and Fair Contribution

A time-limited process (e.g. 12 years) for former owners to reassert title upon proof of entitlement.

A fair mechanism to recover unpaid or avoided tax liabilities associated with previously unregistered or undisclosed ownership.

Fair Taxation of Beneficial Ownership

Reform of inheritance and property taxation to reflect beneficial ownership rather than formal legal structures.

Simplification of valuation processes to reduce administrative burdens and disputes.

Public Interest Land Management

Land that remains unclaimed after the restoration period to be held for public benefit, including housing, environmental restoration, and community use.

Reform of the Crown Estate (or successor body) to ensure such land is managed transparently and in the public interest, without increasing payments linked to the Sovereign Grant.

Conference further calls on the Federal Policy Committee to:

Develop detailed proposals for a Land and Beneficial Ownership (Transparency and Fair Taxation) Bill;

Consult widely with legal experts, landowners, local authorities, and civil society;

Bring forward comprehensive policy for adoption at a future Conference.

Education, Children and Families Motions

1. Educational Rights Without Escalation

Proposer Sonay Ozkutayli

Summator TBC

Submitted by Southwark Liberal Democrats

Conference welcomes:

1. Liberal Democrat policy commitments to inclusive education, early intervention, improved SEND support and reducing persistent absence, including:

a) Ending the Crisis: A Fair Deal for Children with SEND (2025);

b) Tackling Persistent Absence (2024);

c) Supporting Disadvantaged Children (2024);

d) Investing in Our Children's Future (2023).

2. Ongoing efforts to improve educational access, strengthen inclusion and provide support at the earliest opportunity.

Conference notes that:

1. Children and young people have statutory rights to education and support through legislation including the Education Act 1996 and the Children and Families Act 2014.

2. Appeals, mediation, complaints procedures, Ombudsman investigations and SEND Tribunals play an important role in protecting those rights.

3. Despite these safeguards:

a) severe absence remains significantly above pre-pandemic levels;

b) exclusions and suspensions remain high;

c) demand for SEND support continues to grow;

d) increasing numbers of young people are not in education, employment or training.

4. Many families continue to rely on formal challenge processes to secure support and provision to which children are already entitled in law.

Conference believes that:

i. Educational access is fundamental to a fair, free and open society.

ii. Every child should have the opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

iii. The primary route to securing a child's educational rights should be effective public services and early intervention, not parental escalation after educational access has already broken down.

iv. Accountability should prevent failure wherever possible rather than merely identifying it afterwards.

v. Educational reform should be judged by outcomes for children and young people rather than compliance with process alone.

Conference calls for:

1. A Children's Education Guarantee ensuring that every child unable to access suitable education receives an appropriate educational offer within a clearly defined national timeframe.

2. An independent review of educational accountability arrangements across education, health and local government, including consideration of whether current mechanisms rely excessively on complaints, appeals and tribunal processes to secure educational rights.

3. A Joint Educational Accountability Framework to ensure that public bodies share responsibility for identifying and addressing barriers to educational access before educational breakdown occurs.

4. Publication of an annual Educational Access Report bringing together national data on attendance, exclusions, children missing education, SEND outcomes and participation in education, employment and training, together with a government response where outcomes are deteriorating.

Conference further resolves:

That the Liberal Democrats shall campaign for an education system in which educational rights are secured through effective public services, early intervention and clear accountability, rather than through escalation after failure has already occurred.

2. Securing the Future of Rural and Coastal Education

Proposer	Caroline Voaden MP
Summator	TBC
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes:

A. Research from the Education Policy Institute which found that a falling birthrate has created a drop in pupil demand that exposes up to 800 primary schools across England to potential closure by 2029.

B. 68 percent of teacher trainees in more rural areas like Cornwall require family support during their traineeship, and 78 percent of trainees require a car to get to placements.

C. Since the academic year 2014/15, teachers in small rural schools have left the profession or moved to schools in other areas at a higher rate than those in urban areas.

D. That the Government's removal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant has made it harder for local authorities to deliver rural services, including education.

E. Children in rural areas enjoy fewer enrichment activities, educational visits, and work experience opportunities.

F. That the Labour Government's rollout of the 'Coastal Challenge' is deeply limited in scope and, unlike the historic London Challenge upon which it is inspired, is entirely unsupported by dedicated funding.

G. Government data collection on coastal and rural schools remains inadequate to understanding the unique challenges of delivering a rural education.

Conference believes:

i. Every child, regardless of their postcode, deserves access to a world-class education and a thriving local school.

ii. Coastal and rural schools are the heartbeat of their communities, and supporting them is essential to ensuring the vibrant social fabric of smaller towns and villages.

iii. Existing funding mechanisms fail to recognise the realities of coastal and rural geographies, unfairly penalising small schools for unavoidable, structurally higher per-pupil delivery costs.

iv. Resolving the teacher retention crisis in isolated regions requires building sustainable, local career pathways for local people and existing school support staff, rather than solely depending on graduate relocation schemes.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat pledges to:

A. Commit to conducting trials of mobile youth work teams, which either use existing local hubs or mobile facilities, as decided by the relevant local authority.

B. Increase school and college funding per pupil above the rate of inflation every year.

Conference calls on the Government to invest in our coastal and rural schools by:

1. Conducting an immediate review of the Dedicated Schools Grant to ensure that the national funding formula fully reflects the higher per-pupil costs of educating pupils in coastal and rural areas.

2. Ensuring that any review recognises sparsity and rurality as distinct funding variables, and allows for local adjustments within local authorities where data is reliable, and rollout is feasible.

3. Improving data coordination and collection between DEFRA and DfE on rural and coastal schools so that definitions of rural and urban are reflected in DfE data.

4. Enabling school leaders to plan ahead by ensuring they are sighted on the Department for Education's funding strategy beyond annual funding settlements.

5. Piloting local "Grow Your Own" talent pipelines through a teacher apprenticeship scheme specifically targeted at rural and coastal areas, and providing a dedicated, funded pathway for local teaching assistants and support staff to transition into fully qualified teachers.

6. Encouraging educators to work in coastal and rural settings by introducing a targeted teacher recruitment and retention incentive, including a stipulated financial bonus for educators who commit to teaching in the most rural schools for a set number of years.

7. Supporting local education authorities and MATs who wish to lengthen the school day in order to deliver enrichment activities, and working with transport companies to ensure there are sufficient travel options near schools which elect to do so.

8. Establishing a Rural School Transport Guarantee, beginning with a reinstatement of a ringfenced rurality payment to local authorities for maintaining specific bus routes used by schoolchildren, with the aim of equalising rural per capita bus funding on these specific routes when the public finances allow.

9. Launching the "Rural and Coastal School Network" as a genuinely national scheme to drive up standards in underserved regions, fostering collaboration, and sharing best practices across participating areas, with funding to back it up.

10. Implementing a 'presumption against closure' rule for good and outstanding rural and coastal schools, requiring local authorities or academies to produce a community impact assessment as part of the off-rolling process.

11. Creating dedicated teams within the Department for Education which support schools with falling pupil rolls to utilise their spare space for commercial and community purposes.

12. Piloting twinning initiatives between rural, coastal, and urban schools, drawing on the expertise of rural and coastal schools to deliver outdoor education experiences for students from urban areas, and in return, enabling children from rural areas to enjoy the cultural opportunities available in urban areas.

3. Rebuilding Health Visiting and Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

Proposer Tam Langley
Summator Sarah Olney
Submitted by Twickenham & Richmond

Submission Preamble:

Health visiting is one of the NHS's most effective preventative services, yet workforce numbers have fallen sharply while family need has increased. The Institute of Health Visiting's latest report [https://ihv.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/iHV-Annual-Report-2025-Year-13.pdf) highlights growing inequalities, safeguarding concerns and mounting pressure on frontline services.

Similar evidence was reviewed by the Health & Social Care Committee's latest report First 1000 Days: a renewed focus [https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5901/cmselect/cmhealth/802/report.html].

This motion translates Liberal Democrat commitments to prevention, community healthcare, mental health and tackling inequality into a practical programme for rebuilding early-years support. It is highly timely given current debates on NHS reform and public health funding, offers a distinctive Liberal Democrat approach focused on prevention rather than crisis management, and will engage members across health, education, social care and anti-poverty policy. The motion gives Conference the opportunity to debate how we deliver the best start in life for every child while reducing long-term pressures on public services.

Conference notes that:

1. The first 1,001 days of a child's life are critical to lifelong physical health, mental health, educational attainment and life chances.

2. Health visitors provide a universal frontline public health service for babies, young children and families, playing a vital role in:

- safeguarding children and preventing childhood accidents and unintentional injuries
- preventing unnecessary visits to A&E (with babies under 12 months having the highest rate of A&E attendance)
- supporting infant feeding,
- Identifying and supporting infant and early child mental health issues,
- identifying developmental delay,
- reducing health inequalities, and
- relieving pressure on GPs, hospitals and social care.

3. The Institute of Health Visiting's 2024 UK Survey Report, From disparity to opportunity: The case for rebuilding health visiting, found:

- rising levels of poverty, perinatal mental illness and complex family need,
- major regional inequalities in access to support,
- severe workforce shortages,
- unsafe caseloads in many areas, and
- growing concern among practitioners about safeguarding risks.

4. The number of health visitors in England has fallen dramatically since 2015, despite increasing demand for support

5. There is a significant disparity in health visiting provision between England and the devolved administrations.

6. Government has prioritised childcare subsidies for working families, which has grown exponentially in recent years, while budgets for health visiting, healthy babies services and other early intervention services has fallen in real terms [Early years | Institute for Fiscal Studies and The Complex Story Of Public Health And Prevention Spending In Local Government | The King's Fund]

7. Liberal Democrats have consistently championed prevention, early intervention, mental health support, tackling health inequalities and investment in community healthcare services.

8. Investing in early years support delivers substantial long-term savings through reduced pressure on acute NHS services, children's social care, education support services and the criminal justice system.

9. There are arguments that workforce planning should be sufficient to reduce or reverse the need for skill mix and the expectation is that Health Visitors do more than the statutory offer.

10. The DHSC 2026 guidance on Healthy child programme: commissioning public health nursing services introduces new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the delivery of health visiting services (ages 0 to 5) [Annexe A] , which includes, for example, include additional non-face-to-face contacts that are not part of the statutory offer.

Conference believes that:

1. Every child deserves the best possible start in life, regardless of family income or postcode.

2. Prevention and early intervention are essential to improving public health and reducing long-term costs to public services.

3. A strong universal health visiting service is a cornerstone of an effective early years and prevention strategy.

4. Families should receive consistent, relationship-based support from qualified health visitors with manageable caseloads.

5. Persistent regional disparities in health visiting provision are unacceptable and contribute directly to widening inequalities.

Conference calls for:

1. A national strategy to rebuild the health visiting workforce, including:
- o expanded training places,
- o funding for further substantive posts
- o funded return-to-practice schemes,
- o improved retention measures, and

- workforce planning based on population need,
- ensuring ongoing Continued Professional Development and a quality-assured programme of training for the workforce

2. The introduction of nationally recognised safe caseload guidance to protect both families and practitioners.

3. Increased and ringfenced public health funding for local authorities to restore and strengthen universal health visiting services, and for national rollout of the Healthy Babies programme.

4. A renewed commitment to the Healthy Child Programme, delivered as intended to the expected standards, ensuring all families receive the full schedule of mandated reviews and evidence-based support.

5. Greater integration between health visiting, maternity services, mental health services, best start family hubs, early years education and children's social care.

6. The new KPIs should clarify that the practitioner undertaking the statutory offer visit should be a qualified health visitor, not other registered nurses or practitioners

7. Targeted investment in areas of highest deprivation and the need to reduce inequalities in child health and development outcomes.

8. Enhance access to specialist support through health visiting teams for:
- perinatal mental health,
- domestic abuse,
- infant feeding,
- speech and language and Child Development,
- parent-infant relationship support,
- SEND. additional needs and neurodiversity,
- homelessness and temporary accommodation, and
- families experiencing poverty.

9. The collection and publication of robust national data on health visitor numbers, caseloads, outcomes and service access.

10. Recognition of health visiting as a key part of the Liberal Democrat commitment to shift healthcare towards prevention, community services and early intervention.

Conference further calls on Liberal Democrat parliamentarians to campaign for:

1. Cross-government action to reduce child poverty and improve family wellbeing.

2. Long-term and increased investment in early years services as part of a preventative approach to healthcare and social policy.

3. Better implementation of the “Giving every child the best start in life” strategy by increasing overall funding, extinguishing the postcode lottery (only 75 areas currently get healthy babies funding) and urgently tackling of the workforce strategies in health visiting.

Environment, Food and Farming Motions

1. A strategy for food security

Proposer TBC

Summator TBC

Submitted by 19 Party Members

Conference notes that:

. The impacts of climate change, including extreme weather, changes in rainfall patterns and high temperatures, are badly affecting UK agricultural production, with the three worst harvests in England on record all occurring in the last five years.

. Without adaptation to these impacts the amount of high-quality farmland is predicted to drop from about 40 per cent of land in England and Wales to just over 10 per cent by 2050.

. While in the past lower domestic production has been compensated by higher imports, all the countries from which the UK currently imports are themselves suffering from the impacts of climate change and nature loss.

. Agricultural production, both in the UK and abroad, is also affected by high energy prices and geopolitical disruption, and in the UK by labour shortages caused partly by Brexit.

Conference further notes that:

a. The main outcome of these shocks to the food system will be rising prices, with UK food prices on track to be 50 per cent higher by the end of 2026 than in mid-2021.

a. Lower-income households will be disproportionately affected; in order to afford the recommended healthy diet, the most deprived fifth of the population would need to spend 45 per cent of their disposable income on food, rising to 70 per cent for households with children.

a. Combined with fragile supply chains vulnerable to disruption, nationwide food shortages are becoming steadily more likely.

Conference condemns successive governments' neglect of UK food security and resilience, and calls for food security to be adequately recognised and prioritised as a core strategic capability for the UK's economic and environmental security, to be addressed through the UK's international security policy, industrial strategy and national contingency planning.

To make progress against this goal, conference further calls for:

1. A more stable and better supported farm sector, with additional and guaranteed long-term funding for Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS).
2. In particular, additional support for horticulture (fruit and vegetables), to support healthy diets and reduce the need for imports.
3. Support for the production of alternative proteins, allowing for reduced dependence on imports, particularly of low-quality meat.
4. Measures to help farms adapt to the impacts of climate change, including developing drought-resistant crops and supporting regenerative and climate-resilient farming practices.
5. Support for sustainability in overseas food supply chains, by introducing legislation requiring importers to avoid placing products produced with deforestation on the UK market.
6. More secure trading relationships, achieved by establishing much closer links with the EU, including an urgent agreement to eliminate the barriers to trade in foodstuffs created by Brexit, with applications to join the Single Market, and then the EU, as soon as practicable thereafter.
7. Rapid decarbonisation of the economy, reducing the UK's reliance on fossil fuels and vulnerability to oil and gas price spikes.
8. Comprehensive preparations for major disruptions to food supply chains, learning from the strategies adopted by countries such as Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, including national contingency planning for major supply disruptions, better coordination between government,

retailers and food producers, establishing regional distribution centres and giving local authorities powers and resources to develop local emergency stockpiles and emergency strategies.

9. Support for low-income households with children, including:
    . Significant expansion of the Healthy Start nutritional safety-net scheme to cover all families on Universal Credit with young children, automatically enrolling them and doubling the current payment level (of £4.65 a week).
    . Extension of eligibility to the Holiday Activities and Food programme to all families on Universal Credit with children and to periods other than major holidays, including half terms.
2. Incentives for supermarkets to keep prices of essential food items low, including publishing the prices on an independent website, allowing consumers to make easy comparisons, and an investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority into the pricing and mark-up strategies of supermarket chains and food manufacturers.

Notes:

1 This motion arises out of work done in the Economy Policy working group, for its section on resilience. The group agreed that it would be a good idea to submit something to conference, given the paper would not be ready, and this is a particularly topical subject. (Signatories include non-working group members, though.)

2 Calls for 1–7 are mainly drawn from, and consistent with, the party's policy papers on food and farming, climate policy and EU–UK relations. Calls for 8–10 are largely new.

3 For information, the estimated *additional* cost of the proposals in para 8 (i) is about £170 million – £310 million a year, and 8 (ii) about £220 million a year.

2. Cleaning Up Illegal Waste

Proposer Calum Miller

Summator John Russell

Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

I. Waste crime costs the economy over £1 billion a year.

II. The government's own estimates indicate that 20% of all waste is illegally managed; 35% of which is serious organised crime.

III. Over 38 million tonnes of waste, enough to fill Wembley Stadium 35 times, is believed to be illegally managed at some point in the waste management chain each year.

IV. No one has ever been convicted of Landfill Tax fraud.

V. The low-risk high financial reward has led to waste crime being described as the 'new narcotics'.

VI. Industrial fly tipping is severely "under-prioritised", according to the findings of the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee inquiry into waste crime.

VII. The Environment Agency (EA) has confirmed six other illegal waste sites of a similar size to the site at Hoads Wood but many other large illegal dumps are being discovered.

VIII. The EA met the £15m clean-up cost of the site at Hoads Wood with funds taken from the flood defence program and has agreed to meet the costs of clearing the Kidlington site estimated at £15-25m.

Conference believes that:

A. A huge proportion of UK waste is deliberately mislabelled in order to make money for criminal gangs.

B. Organised criminal gangs are getting away with profiting from the illegal dumping of vast quantities of waste, which does unknown damage to the public and the environment.

C. The risk of toxic run-off from illegal waste sites is increasing: the swift removal of serious waste crime sites is essential to limiting the degradation of water, soil and air quality and the risks to people and wildlife.

D. The EA is not equipped to deal with this unfolding environmental disaster or tackle the work and impact of organised criminal gangs illegally dumping vast quantities of waste.

E. Illegal dumping is the inevitable product of inattention and inaction which so characterised the Conservatives in majority government.

F. Government reforms to rules for waste have been delayed for years and will be ineffective without a well-resourced regulator.

G. Communities should not have to suffer the effects of waste crime which blights the environment and puts further pressure on local council budgets which are already on the brink.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat pledges to:

i. Strengthen the Office for Environmental Protection and provide more funding to the EA and Natural England to better protect our environment and enforce environmental laws.

ii. Reform the planning system to align with climate, nature and resilience goals.

iii. Introduce a Countryside Copper Guarantee to crack down on rural crime, including a dedicated rural crime police lead, improvements to training, intelligence sharing and reporting and technologies to detect and deter rural crime, including drones.

iv. Step up support for resource efficiency and the circular economy with improved building and product design standards; aim to eliminate non-recyclable single-use plastics within three years; and finalise a Global Plastics Treaty to cut plastic pollution worldwide.

v. Reform landfill tax to remove the incentives for organised crime

vi. Reduce the amount of waste that the UK places into landfill by reducing waste volumes overall and converting waste into energy

vii. Instruct HMRC to take the strongest action against those who mislabel waste

Conference calls for:

1. An independent review into the entire waste crime system.

2. A single national hotline for waste crime to improve reporting, mapping and detection and help catch those responsible.

3. A government strategy to tackle illegal dumping, including measurable metrics and targets.

4. The proper resourcing of the EA and Joint Unit for Waste Crime to tackle waste crime.

5. Close working with and alongside local authorities to ensure they have the tools and resources to tackle smaller scale waste crime.

6. The National Crime Agency to take over the investigation into illegal dumps in the most serious cases and improve national coordination across police forces and crime prevention agencies.

7. The government to urgently redirect an additional £15m each year from the Landfill Tax to clamp down on illegal waste sites, including investigations, enforcements and sanctions.

8. An end to the Treasury collecting Landfill Tax from the large-scale waste sites the EA is cleaning up and their overly restrictive rules which prevent the EA from making use of revenue from permitted activities to work to prevent unpermitted activities.

9. The increased use and deployment of technology and remote monitoring, including satellite, to fight serious organised waste crime.

3. Feeding Britain: A Food Security Emergency

Proposer Sarah Dyke

Summator tbc

Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes:

I. In the past decade, the UK has experienced the highest food price inflation in 40 years.

II. The proportion of food-secure households has fallen from 92% in 2020 to 90% in 2023, meaning hundreds of thousands of families can no longer reliably put food on the table.

III. The UK sources food from domestic production and trade at a roughly 60:40 ratio, leaving us dangerously exposed to global shocks.

IV. Extreme weather events continue to have a significant effect on domestic production, hitting arable crops, fruit and vegetables hardest.

V. Conflict in the Middle East has driven up oil, gas and fertiliser costs, with those increases rippling through the entire supply chain until they land on the weekly shop.

VI. The Food and Drink Federation expects food inflation to reach at least 9% by the end of the year.

VII. No income group meets dietary recommendations with the poorest 10% eating on average 42% less fruits and vegetables than recommended, compared to the richest who eat 13% less.

VIII. Disruptions to the food supply chain can arise from a range of risks such as extreme weather events, cyber attacks, global conflicts or pandemics.

Conference further notes:

I. The agricultural budget was frozen at £2.4 billion between 2019 and 2024, while farm input costs rose by 44% over the same period.

II. Straw costs more than doubled, while electricity, fertiliser, animal feed and motor fuels all rose between 38% and 50%and interest rates on loans and overdrafts increased by 600%.

III. Under the Conservatives, farm payments fell by 20% in real terms since 2015, equivalent to the loss of £722 million in public funding for farmers and the government consistently underspent even its frozen budget.

IV. Labour has now cut the farming budget in England by a further £100m a year.

V. 90% of Brits want to see more food produced in the UK.

Conference believes:

A. In an unstable world, Britain must become far more self-sufficient, especially when it comes to food.

B. The failure of both Conservative and Labour governments has been to create a false equivalence between nature and farming as if we must choose between them.

C. It is outrageous that England is the only country in Europe whose farm payments scheme does not explicitly support food security.

D. UK production of some of our most nourishing foods such as beans, fruits and vegetables is stalling because they no longer offer a viable livelihood for farmers.

E. Liberal Democrats believe that caring for nature and producing food go hand in hand, and that a properly funded farming sector is essential to both.

F. Long-term food security requires farming practices that actively improve soil quality and enhance the natural environment.

G. Farmers and land managers are the stewards of our countryside and if they are not properly supported there will be no one to restore our natural environment and halt declining biodiversity.

H. The quality of locally produced food is higher and it is more nutritious, it also provides investment in the community.

Conference calls for:

1. A Good Food Bill to be introduced by the Government, setting binding targets on food security to support sustainable domestic food production in harmony with the environment

2. A £1bn increase in the farming budget to support British farmers.

3. A national food security target requiring the UK to produce at least 75% of its own food by 2035, with targets around locally produced food.

4. A new seasonal agricultural workers scheme with guaranteed minimum standards to ensure harvests aren't lost to labour shortages decided on an annual basis.

5. A public procurement requirement for schools, hospitals and government canteens to source a minimum percentage of food from the UK.

6. A ban on the practice of shrinkflation, requiring clear labelling when product sizes are reduced without a proportional price reduction.

7. Enhanced payments for Environmental Land Management Schemes to support nature friendly farming and protect long-term food security.

8. Support for farms to protect the environment by permanently reopening applications for the Sustainable Farming Incentive and pledging not to close it again.

9. A statutory requirement for the government to publish an annual food security audit, with accountability to Parliament.

10. Implementation of Local Food Plans where local authorities assess food accessibility within their areas, integrating supply chains and economic growth strategies to address whether all citizens can access nutritious meals.

4. Restoring Our Seas

Proposer Dr George Hoff MRCVS

Summator Dr George Hoff MRCVS

Submitted by 17 Party Members

Conference notes with concern that:

A. The practices of bottom trawling and dredge fishing have had a significant impact on the biodiversity and productivity of marine habitats in the United Kingdom.

B. Foreign-owned 'supertrawlers' operating in UK waters have caused damage to the marine environment with significant by-catch including marine mammals.

C. Government policy lacks a holistic approach when it comes to protecting the marine environment and recognising its role in combatting the climate emergency.

Conference recognises that the key to a healthy and productive marine environment is a healthy seabed, able to combat climate change through carbon sequestration and produce sustainable fish stocks.

Conference also recognises that healthy seas require healthy rivers, and that effective government policy must view them as one system.

Conference believes that the Liberal Democrats are best placed to bring in the policy changes to protect and restore our marine environment.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

i) Manage our seas for nature by:

a) Reforming marine spatial planning to deliver a new, integrated approach, focused on sustainability.

b) Reforming the fishing quota allocation system to reward the most sustainable fleet, and ensure all catch limits are set at sustainable levels.

c) Putting in place effective management rules, to support the ecology of each protected area, including a ban on bottom trawling in Marine Protected Areas.

d) Ensuring at least 30% of our seas will be fully or highly protected by 2030.

e) Funding coastal local government to increase the monitoring of the health of coastal waters and to develop ways to increase the communication of results.

ii) Manage our lakes, rivers and streams for nature by:

a) Taking urgent measures, including mandating major infrastructure upgrades in the sewage system and implementing natural catchment solutions, to end sewage pollution, prevent harmful run-off from agriculture, and ensure developments do not add to the pollution burden on our precious freshwaters.

b) Introducing nutrient budgeting in English catchments, requiring projects in vulnerable areas to demonstrate 'nutrient negativity' before they proceed.

c) Setting new 'blue flag' standard and introducing a 'blue corridor' programme for rivers, streams and lakes to ensure clean, healthy water.

d) Abolishing Ofwat and replacing it with a regulator with real and meaningful powers.

Conference resolves to:

1. Introduce a total ban on bottom trawling and dredge fishing within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), except within the territorial waters of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

2. Introduce a total ban on trawlers over 100 metres in length (‘supertrawlers’) within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

3. Create new No-Take Zones (NTZs) around sensitive or critically important habitats where fishing and extractive practices are prohibited.

4. Establish Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) to better protect the feeding and breeding grounds of whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals.

5. Support projects aimed at restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems, including the reintroduction of beavers, restoration of oyster beds and planting of seagrass meadows.

6. Instruct the Environment Agency to identify and remove obsolete barriers from English rivers and streams to facilitate the passage of nutrients and migratory fish.

7. Work with international partners to help restore and protect rivers, lakes, seas and oceans globally, including through ratification of the High Seas Treaty.

5. Restoring Our Waters: Britain's Water Company Crisis

Proposer Tim Farron

Summator Charlie Maynard

Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

I. The privatised water industry model has completely failed, water companies have accumulated £70 billion in debt and paid out £83 billion in inflation-adjusted dividends since privatisation - compared to just £236 billion spent on infrastructure over the same period.

II. Up to 20% of an average customer's water bill now goes purely to servicing corporate debt, rising to 28% for Thames Water customers.

III. An average of 3 billion litres of water is wasted every single day in England and Wales due to leaky pipes, with Thames Water ranking as the worst offender with a three-year average of 592 million litres lost per day.

IV. Over 2.5 million households are currently in debt to their water company, highlighting a growing crisis of water poverty across the country.

V. Liberal Democrats have consistently led the charge for structural reform, having called for the replacement of Ofwat since November 2022, a position finally vindicated by the Independent Water Commission's final report in July 2025.

VI. Water companies continue to discharge sewage at unknown volumes into our rivers, lakes, and coastlines while simultaneously handing out massive executive bonuses and failing to invest in fixing crumbling infrastructure.

VII. Both Labour and the Conservatives refused to support any of the 44 amendments tabled by the Liberal Democrats to the Water (Special Measures) Bill, which covered pollution targets, executive bonus bans, volume monitoring, and mutual ownership.

VIII. Failing water companies are currently negotiating restructuring deals with creditors at bill payers' expense, despite clearly meeting the insolvency and performance grounds, set out in legislation, which should trigger them being taken into an administration process .

IX. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) also known as 'forever chemicals' have been found in all but one of tested UK rivers, harming nature and human health.

Conference believes that:

A. Profit must never again be put before the environment, public health, or bill payers.

B. It is essential that water companies operate on a stable financial footing, so they can afford to invest in the things that matter - upgrading infrastructure, increasing capacity at sewage treatment works, cleaning up our lakes, rivers and seas, and improving customer service.

C. Ofwat is entirely unfit to hold failing monopolies to account, and the current regulatory framework must be fundamentally replaced, not just rebranded.

D. True environmental justice and long-term financial sustainability can only be achieved by moving away from shareholder-first structures towards a model that puts public benefit at its heart.

E. Mutually owned public benefit corporations owned by customers, professionally managed, and free from the control of unaccountable investors represent the most credible alternative to the broken privatised model.

F. Under a mutual model, investment in renewing water assets would take priority over dividend payouts, offering the most direct route to ending the sewage crisis.

G. Water poverty is a serious and growing injustice, and no household should be unable to afford a basic necessity while water companies reward executives and service corporate debt.

H. Transparency and data accountability are essential for tackling pollution, without accurate volume monitoring of sewage spills, meaningful targets cannot be set and enforcement cannot follow.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Replace Ofwat urgently with a new, powerful Clean Water Authority with the statutory powers to end the sewage scandal, ban unjustified bonuses, and hold water executives legally accountable.

2. Convert failing water companies into Mutually Owned Public Benefit Corporations that are professionally managed, jointly owned by customers, with all surpluses reinvested directly into the water system rather than paid out as dividends.

3. Require water companies to monitor and publish live volume data for sewage spills, not just the duration of the spill, to ensure pollution can be accurately measured, transparently reported, and effectively targeted.

4. Introduce a nationwide single social tariff for water bills to guarantee that vulnerable households are protected from skyrocketing costs.

5. Publish a clear policy setting out when the Environment Secretary will make an application to the High Court, to place a failing water company into a SAR - as recommended by the Cunliffe Review.

6. Create an additional environmental trigger for Special Administration of water companies, transferring operations to a mutual benefit model where there is chronic or egregious environmental failure.

7. Establish an Environmental Improvement Objective so the new regulator does not repeat Ofwat's failure to invest in nature and enforce environmental standards.

8. Introduce a PFAS restriction to prevent the manufacture and release of "forever chemicals", alongside a PFAS remediation fund requiring polluters to pay for cleaning up forever chemical pollution.

6. Rights of Nature

Proposer Nicola McLaren
Summator Kelly Thornton
Submitted by Bexhill and Battle Liberal Democrats

Conference notes with concern that:

A. The UK has lost nearly half of its biodiversity since the Industrial Revolution and is ranked in the bottom 10% in the world, and the worst among G7 nations, for biodiversity

B. 0% of English rivers maintain good overall health, only 14% are in good ecological status and millions of hours of raw sewage discharges occur annually across the UK

C. Only 9% of native woodland is in favourable ecological condition

D. More than 28% of UK Councils have declared a nature emergency

E. Existing approaches to tackling the decline of the UK's natural environment are not working, harming the well-being of communities across the country and the legacy for future generations.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

i) Leadership on the environment, proud of our unmatched record of environmental action, especially at local level. Where we have the levers we use them to effect practical and positive change

ii) Our belief that "everyone should be able to enjoy our natural environment and our children should inherit the future they deserve"

iii) Policy Paper 156 (2023) Tackling the Nature Crisis

iv) Supporting UK farming communities, recognising their critical role in protecting nature whilst enabling food security, and affirming the need to support them in the transition to sustainable agriculture.

Conference recognises that the climate and nature emergency is one of the greatest threats to life on Earth, for both human and nature communities. It is a threat to people's health, wellbeing and prosperity, and without urgent and effective action domestically and internationally nature and human life will be put in serious jeopardy.

Conference sees a deep mismatch between the scale of the challenge and the tools in place to address it. Conference acknowledges the growing global movement for rights of nature. Conference supports the many local Councils which have passed rights of nature motions in response to growing calls from their communities to address the failures of the current system of environmental protections.

Conference appreciates that nature needs representation, an effective voice in the decisions that impact it and that communities should be empowered to speak up for the local environment on which their health, well-being and prosperity depend.

Conference challenges the UK legal system built on the assumption that the natural world is a set of resources to be managed and exploited and instead recognises nature as having its own legal standing. Conference sees humans and nature as part of an interdependent community and believes that humans are part of nature not separate from it.

Conference takes inspiration from countries which have already introduced rights of nature legislation. For example in Aotearoa New Zealand the Whanganui River was recognised in 2017 via the Te Awa Tupua Act as having legal personhood with governance boards that act as its legal guardians to represent its interests.

Conference understands that conferring rights to natural ecosystems, rather than individual ecological entities, would be more workable. It would allow the active management of parts of the ecosystem for the good of the whole, for example to thin out some trees for the overall health of the woodland. Conference recognises that sustainable farming is compatible with this approach, contributing to ecological and societal resilience.

Conference therefore builds on policy paper 156, Tackling the Nature Crisis, and calls for a Rights of Nature Act which would:

a. Enshrine in law the rights of natural ecosystems; to recognise them as rights-bearing entities with the right to exist, persist and regenerate

b. Affirm that human rights are founded upon a healthy and thriving natural world

c. Embed ecological considerations into relevant governance and decision-making through representation of nature

d. Enable and encourage greater civic, business and community-based participation and empowerment, including establishing “guardianship” as a key tool to give effect to rights of nature

e. Establish governance structures to navigate trade-offs, guide compliance and enforce responsibilities

f. Be founded on the principle that embedding ecological health and environmental justice into the foundation of our governance creates a healthier, sustainable environment for people and their communities now and in the future.

Conference calls for the responsibilities of the Environment Agency to be extended to build compliance and enable enforcement of the Act, with commensurate resourcing to be effective.

Conference understands the need to work collaboratively within the Liberal Democrat family and with external, expert organisations such as the Environmental Law Foundation to identify how to integrate rights of nature into existing legislation, policy and governance.

Data sources can be added

Health and Social Care Motions

1. A Fair Deal for those living with ME, Long Covid and related conditions

Proposer Jonah Weisz

Summator TBC

Submitted by AO: Liberal Democrat Disability Association

Conference notes that:

I. Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) is a complex chronic condition affecting multiple body systems, often, but not always, instigated by a viral infection. ME has one of the lowest quality of life scores of any condition. The sickest lie in darkened rooms, sometimes unable to move, speak or even swallow.

II. People with ME have faced decades of substandard healthcare. Patients and their carers commonly report feeling dismissed or disbelieved within NHS care, and the inappropriate attribution of symptoms to psychological causes. A recent Prevention of Future Deaths report highlighted 'non-existent' NHS care for those severely affected.

III. Despite these immediate patient safety concerns, government plans to establish healthcare provision in England for the most severely affected have been delayed due to the ongoing NHS institutional reforms.

IV. Patient outcomes are affected by decades of chronic underfunding. There is currently no cure or established treatment. UK public funding committed to ME research is vastly disproportionate to research into conditions with comparative disability burdens.

V. Since 2020, this legacy of neglect has also impacted those with Long Covid. In early 2024, ONS data indicated that 2 million people in England and Scotland were living with Long Covid. Approximately 50% meet the diagnostic criteria for ME and face the same gaps in care and research. ME and Long Covid fit within a wider group of Infection-Associated Chronic Conditions (IACCs) that experience a similar lack of system-wide support.

VI. The Liberal Democrats have been a key voice in parliament calling attention to a legacy of neglect faced by people affected by ME. In 2025 a letter from Tessa Munt MP to the Secretary of State for Health ahead of the government’s publication of the Delivery Plan was signed by all 72 Liberal Democrat MPs.

Conference believes:

a. The best way to urgently affect positive improvement for patients with ME, Long Covid and IACCs is to provide appropriate funding for research and service provision.

b. ME and Long Covid patients and carers require:

i. urgent Government funding for research and improvements to NHS care, proportionate to the disabling impact and economic cost of these conditions.

ii. increased knowledge and improved attitudes across the NHS, government departments and society.

iii. safe, compassionate and evidence-based NHS care in line with the UK healthcare guidance body’s recommendations, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence’s NG206 guidelines.

iv. safe, compassionate, and evidence-based NHS care in line with NG206 guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the UK government’s independent healthcare advisory body."

c. Addressing the impact of post-infectious conditions will play an important role in the UK’s future economic success: in the immediate-term, the Department for Work and Pensions recognises Long Covid as a potential factor behind rising economic inactivity due to long-term sickness. Looking to the future, understanding how to support those with IACCs such as ME and Long Covid is a vital component of the UK’s future pandemic preparedness and mitigating economic fallout, as demonstrated by the OECD’s 2026 costs of Long Covid report.

Conference calls on the UK Government to:

1. Place research and NHS services for ME on an equal footing with other conditions, investing £100 million over the next five years to ensure research funding and care that reflect the condition's economic footprint and prevalence, as called for in Tessa Munt's letter co-signed by leader Ed Davey, Treasury spokesperson Daisy Cooper, and Health spokesperson Helen Morgan.

2. As part of this, commit to a sustained pipeline of research investments in ME, Long Covid and other IACCs that are informed by lived experience, and establish a dedicated Post-Infectious Disease Research Hub reflecting calls from charities and researchers.

3. Ensure that those who are severely and very severely affected by ME, including those affected post-Covid ME, are prioritised within future improvements to NHS services. This must include collaboration with patient and carer organisations to develop urgent interim measures that address patient safety risks.

4. Ensure adequate medical training on IACCs, making new NHS e-learnings mandatory and dramatically improving postgraduate education options to develop a vital pipeline of qualified practitioners and researchers.

2. Autoimmune Diseases – The Invisible Crisis Affecting Women

Proposer Donna Harris
Summator Caron Lindsay
Submitted by AO: LDW

Conference notes that:

1 Autoimmune diseases affect millions of people across the UK, and are among the most significant causes of chronic ill health, disability and reduced quality of life.

2 Women account for approximately 75–80% of those affected by many autoimmune diseases, including Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Hashimoto's Thyroiditis, Sjogren's Syndrome and numerous other conditions. (Scleroderma & Raynaud's UK - SRUK)

3 Many autoimmune diseases are associated with multiple co-morbidities, including chronic pain, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, neurological complications, gastrointestinal disorders, endocrine disorders, mental health impacts and additional autoimmune conditions.

4 The invisible nature of many autoimmune diseases frequently results in stigma, disbelief and barriers to support, despite causing severe fatigue, chronic pain, cognitive impairment, mobility limitations, organ involvement and other debilitating symptoms.

5 Delayed diagnosis and inadequate treatment result in worsening disease progression, permanent organ damage, increased disability and greater long-term costs to the NHS.

6 There is growing concern that gender bias and inadequate training on women's health and autoimmune disease contribute to poorer outcomes, delayed diagnoses and avoidable suffering.

7 A 2026 UK Patient Survey by JMW Solicitors found that 81.9% of women report having their symptoms dismissed, minimised, or disbelieved by a medical professional (compared to 51.7% of men)

8 Women with autoimmune diseases frequently face years-long diagnostic delays and misdiagnosis within fragmented, siloed healthcare systems that require navigation across multiple healthcare systems with poor coordination between specialties.

9 Inadequate access to timely diagnosis, effective treatment and appropriate support forces women and girls, out of education and employment, with significant social and economic costs including reduced workforce participation, lost productivity and the loss of skilled professionals.

Conference believes that:

1 The disproportionate impact of autoimmune diseases on women presents both a women's equality issue and a major public health challenge.

2 Women presenting with symptoms consistent with autoimmune diseases should receive timely investigation and diagnosis.

3 Gender disparities in healthcare contribute to delayed diagnosis, poorer outcomes and reduced trust in services.

4 Healthcare systems are often poorly designed to manage complex, multi-systemic conditions, leading to fragmented care.

5 Early diagnosis and intervention improve outcomes and reduce long-term economic and healthcare costs.

6 Support systems often fail to adequately recognise the fluctuating and invisible nature of autoimmune diseases.

Conference calls for the Government to:

1 Work with devolved administrations to develop a UK-wide Autoimmune Disease Strategy with specific measures addressing the disproportionate impact on women.

2 Secure new investment in autoimmune disease research, including research into the causes of autoimmune disease, sex-based differences in disease presentation, and the relationship between hormones, immunity and chronic illness.

3 Improve coordination of multidisciplinary specialist services for autoimmune diseases, with enhanced communication between relevant specialists and the provision of a clear, joined-up patient care pathway.

4 Introduce mandatory education and training for healthcare professionals on autoimmune diseases, women's health, diagnostic bias and the impact of gendered assumptions in clinical practice.

5 Establish national standards for diagnosis and referral pathways for autoimmune diseases, alongside comprehensive national data collection and reporting to reduce diagnostic delays, address health inequalities and improve patient outcomes.

6 Strengthen workplace and educational support for people living with autoimmune diseases through improved occupational health provision, flexible working arrangements, reasonable adjustments, and inclusive attendance policies that reduce barriers to participation.

7 A national public awareness campaign to improve understanding of autoimmune diseases and other invisible illnesses, reducing stigma and helping employers, educators, families and communities better support those affected.

3. Combatting Health Disinformation

Proposer Danny Chambers
Summator Alison Bennett
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

i. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and X are now de facto health information outlets, with millions of people across the UK accessing health advice on these platforms.

ii. Advice on these platforms does not have to adhere to clinical standards or guidelines.

Iii. A number of public figures with significant online reach, such as Nigel Farage, give credibility to peddlers of medical disinformation and implausible treatments, including scaremongering over vaccine safety.

iii.The press transparency organisation FullFact has uncovered hundreds of videos where AI has been used to create “deepfakes” of academics and promote unproven health products.

Iv. Two out of five frontline health workers say they encounter patients who raise inaccurate or misleading information about supplements at least once a week.

v. Exploitative online marketing and misinformation has been particularly prevalent in areas of poor health knowledge, such as menopause, as documented by University College London.

vi. The use of disproven and implausible remedies can delay treatment, with clinical medicine sometimes only turned to when these initial remedies have proven futile and unnecessary harm has been suffered.

vii. Millions of people use artificial intelligence and AI “companions” to discuss health concerns. This includes people expressing suicidal intent and profound mental illness, and one in three adults use chatbots for their mental health.

Viii. Foreign states which are hostile to the UK have a documented history of spreading health misinformation in the UK to sow public distrust and destabilise institutions. Russia aggressively promoted conspiracy theories and antivaccination misinformation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Viii. In countries such as Canada, digital citizen programmes have been used to help equip people to critically assess health information they see online.

Conference believes that:

Digital tools and therapies can help empower people in need of health advice and support, and have an important clinical role.

Medical disinformation online is unacceptably widespread.

The crisis in our NHS, which sees people wait years for basic treatment and assessment for everything from gynaecology to mental health, has forced people to seek alternatives and made them more susceptible to fraudulent advice and products.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat calls for:

Introducing a new kitemark for health apps and digital tools that are clinically proven to help people lead healthier lives, and which are subject to ongoing regulation, such as by the GMC.

Harness the benefits of new technology and digital tools for patients by ring-fencing budgets to enable the NHS to adopt innovative digital tools that improve patient care and experience and save staff time and costs.

Rolling out digital platforms for care users to develop networks, relationships and opportunities, connecting with care workers, friends and family, voluntary groups and more, with a dedicated Carers digital strategy.

Cut years-long waiting lists, introduce a legal right to a GP appointment within seven days or 24 hours if urgent, and open walk-in mental health hubs in every community so that people can get in-person NHS support and advice whenever they need it.

Conference additionally calls for:

The public to be empowered, destroying the business model of fraudulent healthcare advice and products through:

A comprehensive NHS strategy to dominate the health advice social media eco-system with promotion of clinically approved tools. This would include partnerships with key influencers and dedicated funding for outreach to at-risk groups.

Criminal liability for those, including online influencers, who profit from medical disinformation.

A new verification requirement for any social media account claiming to be a medical professional.

Requiring in law that AI chatbots automatically signpost users seeking health advice to clinically approved sources of information, including immediate referral to helplines for those at the point of crisis. Companies failing to comply would face legal penalties including fines.

A specific funded strategy to combat anti-vax disinformation online including:

Targeted outreach campaigns, which integrate social media with physical presence in community spaces for areas most at risk from online vaccine disinformation, including those with elected Reform UK representatives.

Employing trusted peer to peer influencers, working in partnership with expert medical professionals, to answer concerns and questions in forums with high numbers of people at risk from vaccine disinformation, such as forums catering to new and expectant parents.

Support programmes that equip people to critically assess health information they see online.

Working with local NHS services across the country, introducing national commissioning and procurement of NICE approved digital technology, much like they do currently for medicines, to:

Cut the costs of new digital services and make many more available for the first time.

Help clinicians better determine which digital innovations would work best to recommend for their patients, while retaining flexibility and choice.

Working with primary care providers and patients to improve the experience and use of existing online NHS sources of information, such as the 111 website.

4. Endometriosis

Proposer Hannah Wain

Summator Euan Morrison

Submitted by 18 Party Members

Conference notes that:

A. That the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, reports that around 1 in 10 women in the UK has endometriosis.

B. Data from the Office for National Statistics suggests that diagnosis rates remain significantly below estimated prevalence, indicating substantial underdiagnosis and diagnostic delays.

C. Endometriosis has a profound impact on a woman's physical and mental health, education, work, and quality of life.

D. Endometriosis costs the UK economy £8.2bn a year in treatment, loss of work and healthcare costs.

E. Research by Endometriosis UK shows that 50% of those diagnosed had visited their GP ten or more times with symptoms before receiving a diagnosis.

F. An Endometriosis UK study revealed that the average time to receive a diagnosis of endometriosis in the UK has now reached 9 years and 4 months in 2025 up from 8 years in 2020.

G. The governments Women's health strategy does not include specific targets for reducing diagnosis times for endometriosis.

H. That the governments Health Plan doesn't have any mention of conditions such as Endometriosis.

I. While countries such as France are developing non-invasive diagnostic tests, diagnosis in the UK still relies on invasive procedures.

J. Treatment options for endometriosis are not readily available, and care pathways remain fragmented.

K. As of April 2026 there were 563,494 incomplete pathways for gynaecology services in the NHS.

Conference believes that:

I. Neglect and misunderstanding of women's health conditions reflect wider gender bias within our healthcare system.

II. There is disparity in funding between Men's anintd Woman's Health.

III. Health policy urgently needs reform to ensure women's needs are adequately recognised and supported.

IV. Our Health System is currently falling short of timely and effective diagnostic methods for Endometriosis.

V. Endometriosis is underfunded relative to its socio-economic burden, prevalence, and consequences when comparing to non-gender specific health conditions.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

1. A universal high-quality healthcare, free at the point of use and accessible wherever and whenever it's needed.

2. Investing in innovation, investment in healthcare and restoring the UK as a world leader in health research.

Conference calls for:

a) The Government to address disparities between Men's and Woman's Health.

b) The Government to commit to funding research into non invasive diagnostic procedures for Endometriosis.

c) Liberal Democrat Parliamentarians to press the government to commit to full implementation of NICE guidance and set new and ambitious targets to reduce Endometriosis diagnosis timelines.

d) The Government to commit to funding research into effective care pathways to improve patient access to effective treatment.

e) The Government to take steps expand education for healthcare professionals on Endometriosis and other gynaecological conditions.

f) The Government to commit to increased funding into services such as pain specialists, pelvic floor physiotherapists, nutritionists and dieticians for women with Endometriosis

g) The Government to investigate the current fragmented treatment pathway, followed by the implementation of a streamlined and coordinated, national care pathway for people diagnosed with endometriosis.

5. Sovereign and Secure: Protecting Britain's Health in an Uncertain World

Proposer Danny Chambers
Summator Helen Morgan
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

Medicine shortages are becoming more frequent due to geopolitical shocks and pressures on international supply chains, with particular issues in manufacturing and procuring raw ingredients.

The government has defunded key international health security projects, including exiting the Pandemic Fund which detects and contains emerging diseases.

The decline of the rules-based international order has changed the health landscape including reduced support for health security infrastructure, and increased threats to sovereignty over health services.

Conference believes:

It is critical that we protect supplies of medicine and medical services, including by strengthening domestic capacity, as a matter of national security.

The NHS should not be treated as a bargaining chip by foreign states.

Emerging health threats are a threat to everyone, regardless of where in the world they originate.

Conference calls for:

Medicine supplies to be protected, including through:

Urgently working with European partners to remove Brexit red tape and:

Significantly increase access to European medicines, cut regulatory hurdles, and permit greater mobility for scientists - improving access to clinical trials and collaboration on medicine production.

Maximise investment in domestic medicine production by removing the Brexit requirement that medicines exported from the UK to the EU be retested when they cross the border and enter the EU market.

Action to reduce the fragility of community pharmacies, the key mechanism for delivering medicine, by reforming the pharmacy funding model and further expanding pharmacy first.

The promotion of investment in anti-biotic, vaccine, and medicine plants as a matter of national security.

The building of domestic capacity to develop medical plastics, including researching low carbon methods.

Protect and enhance British medical research by:

Establishing a fellowship scheme for scientists working on health conditions, including cancer, so they can continue research that US President Trump has defunded.

Cutting the cost of visas for researchers, to make Britain the easiest place in the world to attract talent.

Expediting the implementation of the Health Data Research Service for all medicines and treatments, with appropriate safeguards via a Health Data Charter, and ensuring UK researchers, academics and life science companies (including SME) are able to access this efficiently and where there is value to patients.

Ensuring Britain benefits from research by promoting investment into upscaling of UK life sciences manufacturing, especially for start ups and manufacturers critical for NHS resilience, and reviewing the relationship between R&D tax credits and manufacturing.

Developing a long-term plan with the sector which ensures certainty, including on issues like VPAG, rapid licensing, and reflects the needs of an aging society in the approach of NICE and other bodies.

Protect the NHS from foreign interference and ensure sovereignty is protected in deciding how to spend scarce resources in the NHS by:

Requiring any trade deal that changes NHS spending be subject to scrutiny and a vote in Parliament.

Opposing the dictation of UK medicines spending by the Trump administration's pharmaceutical deal, which the government refuses to publish an impact assessment for, and instead develop a plan for our life sciences that reflects our national interest.

Introducing a "public good" test for suppliers of critical NHS platforms and services, including risk assessments of contractors based outside the UK, and a duty to prioritise domestic suppliers for patient data contracts.

Introduce an NHS digital sovereignty strategy to mitigate the risk of foreign interference and build domestic alternatives to organisations like Palantir.

Tackle cross border health risks by:

Supporting international health security, including restoring funding for Gavi and the Pandemic Fund, and promoting international surveillance systems, vaccination programmes, rapid diagnostic tests and antimicrobial resistance monitoring.

Recognising the interconnected nature of human, animal and environmental health and ensuring research and health security measures reflect the expertise of veterinarians, wildlife experts and environmental scientists as well as clinicians.

Reversing declining rates of vaccination, including through greater provision of vaccines in community settings, together with stronger outreach and support for new parents to vaccinate their children.

6. Standing Up for Patients Prescribed Cannabis-Based Products for Medicinal Use (CBPMs)

Proposer	David Case
Summator	Sal Aziz
Submitted by	Clwyd East & Flintshire Liberal Democrats

Conference Notes:

That Cannabis-Based Products for Medicinal Use (CBPMs) have been legal under prescription in the UK since November 2018.

That over 80,000 patients across the UK have been prescribed CBPMs, primarily through private healthcare, for a range of chronic pain, psychiatric, neurological and other disabling conditions and most patients meet the legal definition of disabled under the Equalities Act 2010.

That CBPMs may be administered in vaporised flower form so as to provide patients with rapid symptom relief and is clinically important for some patients, particularly those managing acute neurological pain, muscle spasticity or seizure activity., with vaporised products falling outside smoking legislation.

That patients continue to face unjust treatment, including eviction threats, unlawful or unfair police actions, and being forced to medicate in unsafe or inappropriate environments.

Conference Believes:

That CBPM patients have the right to dignity, access, and legal protection equivalent to that of all other patients and disabled people.

That local authorities, housing providers, and police services must be held accountable for ensuring compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

That elected Liberal Democrat councillors have a responsibility to promote patient rights and advocate for evidence-based, compassionate policy.

That there is a benefit to patients in adopting a consistent approach throughout the country and a reasonable way to achieve that aim is to ensure motions regarding this issue are substantially in the format previously passed by other Local Authorities such as Salford and Flintshire*.

Conference Calls for:

Liberal Democrat councillors and local parties to understand the need to:

Use their roles within councils, combined authorities and other public bodies to promote awareness of the lawful status of CBPMs and the rights of prescribed patients, and to bring forward motions, scrutiny inquiries or policy reviews to ensure that local smoke-free, vaping, housing, employment, conduct and related policies comply with equality legislation and provide for reasonable adjustments where required.

Encourage and support local Equality Impact Assessments that explicitly consider the needs of CBPM patients and others who must administer prescribed medicines in public, workplace or housing settings.

Conference further calls on the Liberal Democrats, including parliamentarians, spokespeople and the party nationally, to:

Campaign for clear, consistent national guidance to police forces, public bodies, landlords, employers and transport operators on the lawful status of CBPMs and other prescribed medicines, including appropriate and proportionate verification of prescriptions.

Press for updated national policing guidance and training to ensure officers understand the legality of CBPMs, the forms in which they may be prescribed, and the statutory protections that apply to patients under the Equality Act 2010.

Advocate for national guidance making clear that reasonable adjustments may be required to allow patients to administer prescribed medicines, including insulin injections, inhalers and medically-approved CBPM vaporisers, in appropriate indoor or controlled settings.

Oppose discriminatory enforcement of smoke-free, vaping or behavioural policies where these disproportionately impact disabled or chronically ill patients.

Press for the NHS to adopt policies enabling patients to administer all prescribed medicines in NHS settings and which seek to increase access to medicinal cannabis on the NHS.

Urge the Government to work with clinicians, patient groups, disability organisations and regulators to ensure that lawful use of medicinal cannabis and other essential medicines is consistently understood and respected across the public sector, while maintaining proportionate enforcement of the law.

7. Supporting people to age well

Proposer Alison Bennett
Summator Helen Maguire
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

More than one in ten people over 65 years in the community live with frailty, and frailty affects over half of adults in hospital or care home settings.

The number of people in the UK over the age of 85 is set to double by 2045.

People who have kept the same GP for more than 15 years had a 25% lower chance of dying than those with a GP relationship lasting a year or less.

For older people and those with long term conditions having the same GP helps avoid hospital admissions which saves the NHS money in the long term.

Where integrated cross-sector teams for older people's care have been introduced, such as in Surrey Downs, there has been a fall in elderly admissions, shorter hospital stays, significantly reduced social care costs and 50% fewer nursing home admissions.

A third of people over 65, and half of people over 80, fall at least once a year. Falls are the most common cause of death from injury in the over 65s and account for more than 50% of admissions to hospital caused by unintentional injury and costing the NHS £4.6m per day and over 4 million bed days.

Older people are more likely to live with neurological conditions from dementia to Parkinson's, impairing quality of life and increasing their reliance on NHS services.

There are 2.1 million unpaid carers over the age of 65, and 420,000 over the age of 80 navigating the difficulties of caring for a loved one whilst ageing themselves.

Conference believes that:

Supporting people to improve quality of life and maintain independence is better for them, and better for the NHS by reducing hospital admissions and procedures. By empowering individuals to improve their own health, creating healthier environments, and funding communities to decide how to better their health our society will be stronger and better equipped to manage the challenges of an aging population.

Everyone who needs it deserves high-quality care and support to stay healthy in later life. That means fixing social care services and bringing forward measures that help people stay in better health for longer.

Conference reaffirms our commitment to:

Fix social care, including through sustained increases in funding for local authorities who are the cornerstone of our social care system, a higher Carer's Minimum Wage, and by better supporting family carers with guaranteed respite care and a dedicated carer support service in every hospital.

Give everyone 70+ and everyone with long-term health conditions access to a named GP.

Tackle loneliness and isolation by refreshing the national strategy for loneliness, to be overseen by a dedicated Minister for Tackling Loneliness; and by expanding social prescribing and investing in relevant community projects.

Conference calls on the Government to:

Introduce a dedicated frailty service in every community which…

Ensures those arriving at hospital are identified by frailty specialists who coordinate tailored care with an emphasis on providing care at home.

Ensures patients can discuss with frailty specialists the outcomes they want for their health, living standard and independence, with ongoing care reflecting these preferences.

Works with local government, voluntary and state sectors, as well as with family carers, to provide high quality tailored care in the community for patients with frailty or complex needs.

Works in every nursing and residential home, bringing the NHS to residents and ensuring they have quality care, with an agreed care plan if they become very unwell.

Ensures every frail patient and their carer has ongoing support from pharmacists, nurses and others on managing their health including using medicines in the correct way.

Invest in a major expansion of step down care and home based reablement to ensure people are always guaranteed the timely intermediate care they need and aren't trapped in hospital.

Prevent people needing to go to the hospital in the first place through regular health assessments for people with frailty or multiple conditions, overseen by a named GP who would coordinate with paid and unpaid carers, community nurses, therapists, and pharmacists.

Equip GPs with the time and resources to ensure effective, tailored follow-up care following these assessments, including low level interventions to improve quality of life and health outcomes such as free ear wax removal, switching a patient's incontinence supplies to reduce UTIs, or ongoing pharmacist check ins for help with using the right medicine.

Expand the capacity for district nursing by creating alternative roles for people who retire from being paramedics. This would enable them to undertake home visits, urgent face-to-face assessments, post-discharge follow-ups, and support patients with complex or multiple conditions, working under the close supervision of GPs.

Implement the recommendations of the Neurology Alliance to ensure personalised care plans and care coordinators for everyone with neurological conditions like dementia, Parkinson's and MS, and to cut emergency admissions for these conditions by a third.

Support Community Dental Services to ensure those who are housebound, live in a care home, or have additional health needs can access dental care.

Roll out active ageing programmes and trips and falls assessments for everyone over the age of 80 to prevent falls, avoid unnecessary hospital admissions, and promote healthy ageing.

Deliver fracture liaison services to every part of the country within a year so that osteoporosis patients can get the treatment they need, preventing long-term issues and costs to the NHS.

Establish a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing who would promote and protect the rights of older people, ensuring policy across government departments takes account of the challenges of an aging population.

8. Tackling the maternity crisis

Proposer Helen Morgan
Summator Tbc
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference Notes

i) Maternal deaths in the UK are higher than at any point in the last decade.

ii) 65% of maternity units are not safe to give birth in, according to the Care Quality Commission, and the Commission has stated that they are “concerned about the potential normalising of serious harm in maternity”.

iii) Shortages of experienced staff, including specialist doctors and senior midwives, especially at night, has been repeatedly identified as a source of failure in maternity, including in landmark maternity investigations such as the Ockenden report into failings at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust.

iv) Maternity represents the largest share of clinical negligence payments, at £1.3bn a year.

v) Reviews into maternity have come up with more than 700 recommendations in the past decade, but improvements have been limited.

vi) There have been repeated investigations into maternity services in recent years, often uncovering similar failings, including most recently the Nottingham, Leeds and Sussex investigations and the national Amos review.

Conference believes

Britain should be the safest country in the world to have a baby.

Every maternity unit should meet “good” or “outstanding” standards of safety.

No woman should face injury or trauma due to unsafe healthcare

There should be sufficient staff to ensure mothers benefit from the greatest possible safety and choice during pregnancy and labour.

Conference calls for:

Every maternity unit to be brought up to good levels of safety through:

Consultant obstetricians to be present on every labour ward 24/7.

1-1 midwifery care for every woman in labour.

A capital investment programme that…

Brings every maternity and neonatal unit up to good condition. This should include renovation of the 42% of units in need of major repair and immediately starting repairs in the 7% of units that run a risk of imminent breakdown.

Delivers new dedicated bereavement suites

Invests in high quality equipment that reduces the rate of injury, including identifying and developing new tools such as air cuff alternatives to forceps.

Conference additionally calls for:

A national Maternity Commissioner to oversee improved standards of care.

Mandatory, regularly updated (salaried) training each year that…

Includes fetal monitoring and emergency procedures, for all maternity staff.

Includes 52 hours salaried training time for midwives as recommended by the Royal College of Midwives.

Clearly communicates a shared understanding of safety, with focused training for those in leadership roles in building a culture of openness and speaking up.

A Director of Midwifery to be appointed in every maternity service, alongside an extra 300 consultant midwives across the country to help drive clinical excellence.

A restoration of Service Development Funding (£95m), which the Labour government cut, to support enhanced care for complex pregnancies, multiple births or bereavement care and support.

Guaranteed bereavement specialists and perinatal mental health specialists in every maternity service.

A dedicated neonatal workforce plan which ensures neonatal teams are properly staffed in every hospital, including the right mix of specialists.

Better support during pregnancy including…

Guaranteed access to preconception services and timely antenatal booking

Clear referral pathways to support personalised care by multidisciplinary teams from the earliest opportunity to support mothers' safety and preferences.

Review national standards and funding to ensure every mother has access to high quality antenatal classes, regardless of postcode.

Disparities in maternity care to be tackled, which particularly impacts black and Asian women, disabled women and women from deprived backgrounds, including through

Mandatory training on inequalities, including identifying specific risks, such as recognising jaundice or cyanosis in babies with darker skin tones.

A cross-Government target and strategy for eliminating maternal health disparities, backed by new investment in public health.

A systematic review of complaints processes in maternity and neonatal care to deliver new national standards, including on communication with patients, transparency and ease of registering a complaint.

Transparent national monitoring, with clear national benchmarks for success, for the hundreds of recommendations of the major reviews into maternity services in the UK.

All miscarriages to be recorded so that the issue is no longer hidden, national targets can be set, and the impact of interventions can be measured.

Support and referral including to NHS mental health support services to be made available after every miscarriage, not just after three.

9. Under the Counter to Under Control: Reducing Steroid and Image-Enhancing Drug Harm

Proposer TBC

Summator TBC

Submitted by AO: Young Liberals

Conference notes that:

A. The use of anabolic steroids and other image and performance enhancing drugs, is fuelled, at least in part, by online body-image pressures. This includes “looksmaxxing” and “manosphere” content which links muscularity with status and masculinity.

B. Anabolic steroids are classified as Class C drugs. Personal possession is therefore not an offence, while unauthorised supply and importation is illegal.

C. The scale of anabolic steroid usage is unknown, with a 2022 expert study estimating that hundreds of thousands of men had used anabolic steroids, far exceeding household survey estimates.

D. Steroid use can adversely affect many aspects of physical and mental health, with heart attack, liver and kidney problems and erectile dysfunction among the possible harms.

E. Anabolic steroids supress natural testosterone function meaning stopping use can cause depression alongside other harms.

F. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance recommends the provision of sterile injecting equipment to people who inject image and performance-enhancing drugs, with provision to people under 18 accompanied by appropriate safeguarding measures.

G. Selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs) are widely promoted online as safer alternatives to steroids despite them having received no medical approval and posing serious health risks.

Conference believes that:

i) Non-medical anabolic steroid and other image and performance drug use is a public health and body image issue.

ii) People affected should be able to freely seek help without any fear of stigma or prosecution for personal use.

iii) Government should take a harm reduction approach without presenting non-medical use as safe and heavily focus enforcement measures on those who profit from illegal supply.

Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:

1. Publish and implement a national strategy to tackle the non-medical usage of steroids and related drugs, developed though cooperation with clinicians, harm-reduction services, the fitness sector and youth organisations, with opportunities to contribute for people with lived experience.

2. Ensure the strategy covers prevention, treatment, safeguarding, future research and enforcement.

3. Preserve the non-offence status of personal possession of anabolic steroids and to focus on enforcement against those who illegally manufacture, import and sell, both on- and offline, prioritising action against those who target or supply under 18s.

4. Commission confidential and dedicated services for non-medical appearance and performance enhancing drug use, accessible by self-referral, which provide relevant blood tests and health checks, needle provision, body image mental health support and stopping support.

5. Standardise NHS recording of clinically relevant steroid and image and performance enhancing drug use, to inform effective prevention and treatment strategies and aid public health research.

6. Publish relevant safeguarding guidance for under-18 steroid and image and performance-enhancing drug use, with clear referral pathways, which covers male body image, muscle dysmorphia, online promotion and health risks.

7. Require council-owned and publicly funded gyms and aid private providers to meet a Safe Gym Standard which covers:

a) Measures to prevent illegal sale, supply or promotion on premises.

b) Signposting to confidential and local health and harm-reduction services.

c) Access to safe disposal of injecting equipment.

d) Safeguarding procedures in the event of suspected use or supply to under-18s.

8. Pilot the testing of both seized and anonymously and voluntarily submitted steroid and image and performance-enhancing drug samples, widely publishing alerts on counterfeit, contaminated or dangerously mislabelled products.

10. Primary Healthcare policy paper (FPC)

Proposer TBC
Summator Dr Kate O'Kelly
Submitted by Federal Policy Committee

Conference notes that NHS primary healthcare services play a frontline role in treating patients and believes that their visible shortcomings are both a representation of the failings that exist throughout the entire system and a problem in and of themselves.

Conference notes that:

- Primary care is where most patients first seek help and where early treatment prevents illness from escalating into a problem that adds to demands on hospitals.
- General practices, dentists, and pharmacies are the front door to the rest of the NHS and they collectively deliver 90% of the interactions between the NHS and the public.
- Health has been the second most important issue to voters over the past 15 years, behind only the economy.

Conference notes with anger that the Labour Government has utterly failed NHS primary healthcare services, and that since entering office Ministers have chosen to make hospital waiting lists the political test of NHS recovery, while treating the front door of the health service without the same urgency, grip or guarantee of improvement.

Conference further notes that the Labour Government's claim to be fixing "the front door" of the NHS is both inaccurate and insulting, with nearly half of the public delaying or avoiding contacting their GP about a health concern, 4.1 million GP appointments in October 2025 taking place more than 28 days after booking, and 41% of patients not being offered a choice of appointment time, day or location, despite patient choice being strongly linked to satisfaction with care.

Conference deplores the fact that successive Conservative governments presided over a decade in which primary care became harder to access, more unequal, and less sustainable. Under their mismanagement, general practice was left with fewer fully qualified general practitioners per patient, dentistry became out of reach for millions, community pharmacies closed in record numbers, and the share of NHS spending going to primary care shrank even as demand rose.

Conference believes that a liberal NHS primary care system should:

i) Transform formal rights into real freedoms by giving people the capability to be healthy, which is largely determined by the quality of our NHS primary care system.
ii) Treat people as individuals with individual needs rather than as a number in a backlog that needs to be cleared.
iii) Respect the fact that quality means different things to different people, and that everyone would prioritise speed, continuity, face-to-face care, digital access, prevention, reassurance, or a trusted long-term relationship differently.
iv) Never wait for people to reach crisis point before becoming available, because a health service that waits until people are acutely ill fails to empower people to live a life of their choosing.

Conference notes with concern that:

viii. Only 26% of Britons are satisfied with how the NHS runs.
viii. 53% of Britons expect care to get worse in the next five years.

viii. Over a quarter of Britons think the NHS is inherently broken and cannot be improved.

Conference therefore endorses policy paper 164 *Primary Healthcare*, and its flagship policies that would rapidly and reliably reverse this Labour Government's neglectful mismanagement of NHS primary healthcare services and restore the confidence of voters:

A. Give patients more choice when booking general practice appointments, including the option to either have an appointment within a week at a time most convenient for them (or within 24 hours if urgent), or for a longer-duration appointment with a healthcare professional they already have a relationship with.

B. Expand the Pharmacy First model to include eight new services, and better integrate pharmacy into the NHS App.

C. End dental deserts including by removing the administrative barriers that are preventing qualified overseas dentists that are already living in England from entirely filling the 2,500 FTE dentist vacancies, with appropriate safeguards and without impacting quality or safety.

Conference in particular endorses policies to:

1. Empower patients by keeping online booking open 24/7 for non-urgent requests, maintaining non-digital routes, setting standards for usability and accessibility, strengthening patient choice, improving shared care, and ending the GMC five-year rule for serious fitness-to-practise concerns.
2. Get general practice, community and neighbourhood services, and hospitals working together under a patient-centric model of primary and community care, including by:
    a) Better utilising spare 111 capacity to support GP receptions at peak times and create pathways for senior paramedics to join GP teams.
    b) Reforming the Carr-Hill formula so that funding more fairly reflects need.
    c) Requiring developers to ensure there are enough healthcare professionals when people move into new developments.
    d) Expanding support for low-income patients to access primary care.
1. Put community pharmacy on a sustainable footing by properly rewarding an expanded Pharmacy First service, making it fairer for rural and coastal communities, allowing NHS App booking, improving medicines safety information and reviewing prescription charge exemptions.
2. Repair NHS dentistry by replacing the UDA contract with a prevention-focused model, guaranteeing urgent and emergency appointments, protecting check-ups for children and vulnerable groups, supporting supervised toothbrushing, and expanding dental recruitment and retention incentives in underserved areas, which would especially benefit ethnic minority communities.
3. Care for healthcare professionals as people themselves, by making general practice more sustainable and rewarding, freeing up GP time, supporting GPs to lead multidisciplinary teams, embedding clinical pharmacists and other qualified professionals safely, and creating routes for experienced paramedics to join GP teams.
4. Support community optometry and high street providers to deliver eye and ear care closer to home, including glaucoma monitoring, cataract pathways, urgent minor eye care , hearing aid fittings and minor ear infection treatment, reducing unnecessary GP and hospital appointments and helping people stay independent for longer.

Home Affairs and Equalities Motions

1. Combatting Sex Trafficking

Proposer Sarah Dyke
Summator Thalia Marrington
Submitted by 29 Party Members

Conference notes:

1. Women and girls make up 90% of all detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation globally. 60% of all detected girl victims of trafficking are trafficked explicitly for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

2. Sex trafficking is a form of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

3. 36% of all detected human trafficking victims globally are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

4. The 2026 GRETA (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) report, highlights the "extreme vulnerability" of unaccompanied migrant children.

5. The 2021 report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Commercial Sexual Exploitation, "Bust the Business Model," found that organised sexual exploitation is occurring on an "industrial scale" across the UK.

6. The multi-agency Joint Slavery and Trafficking Analysis Centre (JSTAC) has identified Adult Services (AS) websites as the "most significant enabler of sexual exploitation in the UK," providing traffickers with a high-profit, low-risk platform to advertise victims.

7. Adult services websites can involve third-party “management” arrangements where creators may experience financial coercion, account control and restriction of earnings.

8. Under Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UK has a binding international obligation to suppress all forms of trafficking in women.

9. The UK is a signatory to the UN Palermo Protocol, which requires member states to "prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons" and discourage the demand that fosters exploitation.

Conference Reaffirms:

i. The passing of Motion F5 (Combatting Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Autumn 2023) that established the Liberal Democrat commitment to a survivor-led approach to modern slavery and the overhaul of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Conference believes that:

A. Every person has the right to live free from coercion, exploitation and violence, and that sex trafficking represents a profound violation of human rights and personal liberty.

B. Women and girls should be protected in law from Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including sex trafficking and coercive control, whether these occur online or offline.

C. Survivors of trafficking should be met with compassion, dignity, and a trauma-informed system that prioritises safety, recovery and genuine routes out of exploitation.

D. The UK should uphold both its domestic and international obligations to prevent sex trafficking, protect victims, and reduce the commercial incentives that enable organised sexual exploitation to flourish.

Conference calls on the UK Government to:

I. End digital impunity for exploitation platforms by creating a new UK-wide criminal offence making Adult Services websites legally liable for hosting content that facilitates or profits from trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

II. Commission an independent review into Adult Services platforms and associated management structures to assess risks of control, coercion and exploitation not currently addressed under modern slavery or online safety legislation.

III. Mandate that all commercial platforms hosting Adult Services verify the identity of advertisers and actively report suspicious patterns to law enforcement.

IV. Provide additional ring-fenced funding for specialist police units trained in digital forensics to identify and disrupt sex trafficking networks, including the links between online advertising, organised sexual exploitation, and the use of temporary residential properties and hotels as "pop-up" brothels.

V. Provide local training and support, where needed, for the use of local authority planning and enforcement powers to close down and disrupt the use of short-term holiday rentals used for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

VI. Provide holistic support and safe exit pathways with additional funding to provide immediate housing, financial aid, and pathway services for individuals to safely leave the sex trade, preventing destitution.

VII. Ensure all victims of child sexual exploitation and sex trafficking have an unequivocal right of referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and immediate access to long-term therapeutic support.

Conference further calls on Local Authorities to:

a. Implement data-sharing protocols and ensure good joint working between the local council, regional police, local NHS trusts, and specialised VAWG charities to actively track the welfare and whereabouts of unaccompanied migrant children accommodated within their borders. Investigate and map localised trends regarding child sexual exploitation, pop-up brothels, and the displacement of vulnerable people.

b. Appoint an elected member as a designated "Women and Girls/VAWG Champion" (where they have not already done so) to provide political leadership, oversee the local safety strategy, and hold local safeguarding boards to account.

c. Utilise local Scrutiny Committees to run regular, transparent performance reviews on how effectively the council is monitoring and taking action on high-risk environments, such as short-term holiday lets and commercial properties used for trafficking.

Notes for FCC only (not part of the motion)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime report:
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html

GRETA report:

https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-the-implementation-of-the-council-of-europe/48802b944a

APPG report on CSE:

https://www.appg-cse.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Bust-the-Business-Model.pdf

2. Fixing Family Courts

Proposer	Jess Brown Fuller
Summator	TBD
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

A. Private law proceedings, which are between parents or family members about child arrangements, were reviewed by the 2020 Harm Panel, but many of its 72 recommendations remain unimplemented.

B. The Family Court Reporting and Reform Mechanism (FCRRM) pilot, in 2024, found that the structural problems identified by the Harm Panel - pro-contact culture, adversarialism, lack of resources, and siloed working - remain widespread.

C. FCRRM data also indicated that domestic abuse is present in 73% of hearings and identified in 87% of case file reviews.

Family courts permit evidence from unregulated therapists, raising concerns particularly in cases involving allegations of parental alienation.

D. The ‘Pathfinder’ model, now operating in over 20 English courts and all Welsh family courts, has been described by the President of the Family Division as “more radical, and far more successful, than even its most ardent supporters would have anticipated.”

E. In March 2026, the Government announced plans to remove the presumption of parental involvement through the Courts and Tribunals Bill.

Conference further notes:

I. Public law proceedings, brought by local authorities over child welfare concerns, have not been the subject of a recent comprehensive review comparable to private law.

II. The 26-week statutory timetable for public law cases has never been consistently met since its introduction in 2014.

III. Around 32% of public law cases have at least one hearing cancelled before it takes place, contributing to delays and wasted resources.

Conference believes:

A. The previous Conservative government’s mismanagement of the justice system caused delays in family courts to spiral, letting down children and their families.

B. Under the current Labour government, private law proceedings continue to under-recognise domestic abuse and coercive control, with serious consequences.

C. Meaningful reform of both private and public law requires full implementation of expert recommendations, improved access to data on system performance, and proper resourcing of the family justice system.

Conference calls on Government to:

1. Improve private law proceedings by:

a. Completing the national rollout of Pathfinder Courts across England and Wales by the end of this Parliament.

b. Commissioning an independent review of the implementation of the Harm Panel's 72 recommendations.

c. Working with the Judiciary to ensure family judiciary, magistrates, CAFCASS officers and experts in private law proceedings have specialist training in domestic abuse.

d. Establishing a statutory regulator for therapists.

2. Address data gaps across private and public law proceedings by:

a. Rolling out the FCRRM for private law proceedings.

b. Commissioning the MoJ and DfE, with HMCTS, Cafcass, local authorities and the judiciary, to develop a joined-up data strategy to improve family court data collection.

c. Establishing an anonymisation unit to publish anonymised family court judgments.

3. Commission the Family Justice Board (FJB) to develop a national improvement plan, underpinned by a system-wide assessment of inefficiencies and regional capacity constraints.

3. Introducing Anti-SLAPP Legislation

Proposer	Jess Brown Fuller
Summator	TBD
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

A. A SLAPP - or Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation - is an abusive legal threat aimed at stifling public participation and protected speech.

B. The UK was by far the most frequent country of origin for legal threats received by journalists investigating financial crime and corruption in The Foreign Policy Centre's 2020 survey.

C. The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 introduced anti-SLAPP protections for reporting on economic crime.

D. In April 2024, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers approved Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)2, which establishes a set of minimum standards for Council of Europe member states, of which the UK is one, to tackle SLAPPs.

E. In May 2024, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) renewed its warning against the use of SLAPPs and provided detailed guidance on when it would take regulatory action against solicitors and law firms.

F. Currently there are no universal statutory protections to counter SLAPPs in UK law, meaning journalists, whistleblowers, campaigners and victims speaking out on matters of public interest unrelated to economic crime have no legal recourse.

G. Cases that reach court are just the “tip of the iceberg”, with pre-court intimidation and the threat of costly legal proceedings producing a chilling effect on journalists, campaigners and others acting in the public interest.

H. The Labour Government has repeatedly committed to introducing anti-SLAPP legislation, but has so far failed to do so.

Conference believes that:

I. Equal access to justice for all is a fundamental right in any democratic society.

II. Nobody should be able to use vast sums of money to silence legitimate scrutiny or public interest reporting.

III. The current anti-SLAPP regime is too narrow and does not provide proper protection across all areas of public interest.

IV. The Labour Government is failing to act with any urgency, despite the threat SLAPPs pose to a healthy democracy.

V. Strong protections against SLAPPs are essential to upholding Britain's long and proud history of media freedom, democratic accountability and the rule of law.

VI. Effective anti-SLAPP legislation must distinguish between abusive litigation and legitimate claims in defamation, privacy and other areas of law.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Introduce comprehensive anti-SLAPP legislation covering all matters of public interest which would:

a. Introduce a filter mechanism that empowers courts to swiftly dispose of SLAPPs.

b. Extend early dismissal procedures and costs protection for defendants to all SLAPP cases, not just those involving economic crime.

c. Empower courts to impose financial penalties on those who bring abusive SLAPP claims to deter future use and provide full compensation to those targeted.

2. Strengthen the regulatory powers of professional standards bodies and ensure robust enforcement against lawyers and law firms that engage in abusive SLAPP litigation.

3. Improve access to legal advice and support for journalists, whistleblowers, campaigners and others facing SLAPP threats.

4. Stopping Violence Against Women and Girls in the Digital Age

Proposer	Marie Goldman
Summator	Donna Harris
Submitted by	AO: Liberal Democrat Women

Conference notes that:

A. Misogyny has evolved in the digital age, with the rise of the “manosphere” and “incel culture” spreading hateful ideologies linked to real-world violence.

B. Over one in ten women in England have experienced online violence, rising to 25% among women aged 16–24 and 35% among LGBT+ women.

C. Ethnic minority women are disproportionately targeted, with Black women 84% more likely than white women to be mentioned in abusive tweets.

D. A quarter of girls have been called degrading names online, and one in five have received unwanted images.

E. Nearly three-quarters of Gen Z have encountered misogynistic content online, with over half exposed at least weekly.

F. Generative AI has enabled the creation of non-consensual sexually explicit deepfakes and child sexual abuse material, including via tools such as X’s chatbot Grok.

Conference further notes that:

I. Women and girls still experience disproportionately high levels of online abuse, stalking, intimate image abuse and technology-facilitated violence, despite the introduction of the Online Safety Act 2023, the Victims and Courts Bill 2026 and the Crime and Policing Act 2026.

II. Ofcom's A Safer Life Online for Women and Girls guidance, published in November 2025, sets out voluntary measures for platforms, with no review due before 2027.

III. The Government’s Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, published in December 2025, includes commitments to tackle online harms by 2029.

IV. Seven in 10 women believe current legislation is ineffective at tackling VAWG online.

Conference believes that:

A. Everyone, regardless of identity, has the right to live a life free from fear and violence.

B. VAWG is a national emergency and tackling it must be a priority at all levels of government.

C. Effective action on VAWG must recognise the distinct experiences of minority women.

D. The Labour Government, like its Conservative predecessors, is failing to adequately tackle online harms against women and girls.

E. The law must keep pace with emerging technologies and evolving forms of abuse to protect women and girls.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' commitment to tackling VAWG in all its forms.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Immediately bring into force all relevant sections of the Victims and Courts Bill 2026 and the Crime and Policing Act 2026.

2. Urgently review the Online Safety Act to ensure Ofcom uses its enforcement powers earlier, as a first, not last resort to hold platforms to account.

3. Make Ofcom’s guidance on VAWG an enforceable Code of Practice with real consequences for failure to comply.

4. Deliver all commitments on online harms in the VAWG Strategy without delay.

5. Require platforms to publish regular assessments of their role in facilitating misogynistic abuse and the steps taken to mitigate it.

6. Reinvest fines levied under the Online Safety Act into digital literacy, healthy relationships and online gender-based violence prevention education.

7. Extend police charging powers for lower-level VAWG offences, including online stalking, technology-facilitated domestic abuse and harassment, to speed up charging decisions and reduce victim disengagement.

5. Asylum Seeker Dispersal

Proposer Tom Shaw

Summator Iain Donaldson

Submitted by North West regional Party

1. Conference affirms support for Ed Davey's repeated calls, to speed up radically the processing of asylum claims, including taking emergency action, comparable to the establishment of Nightingale hospitals, while allowing those awaiting decisions, the opportunity to work legally to support themselves and thereby integrate more effectively within the community.

2. Conference notes with concern

a) That progress in reducing those awaiting decisions has lead to an increase in appeals awaiting determination.

b) The actions of contractors such as SERCO, acting on behalf of Government, offering landlords management contracts for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) which they can then let at inflated rentals for asylum seeker accommodation.

3. Conference believes

a. That asylum seekers should be permitted to work to help with integration and coverage of their living expenses.

b. That accommodation in houses of multiple occupation at best replicates and at worst exacerbates the issues associated with hotel accommodation;

i. Individuals are living in cramped accommodation which may be of a poor standard, within an unfamiliar culture, often with limited English language skills and no gainful means of occupying their time,

ii. They remain vulnerable to exploitation by the criminal gangs who brought them to this country or other criminal elements.

iii. Those who have weak claims, including some with failed asylum applications in safe countries en-route, have opportunities to disappear into a black economy.

iv. Should any small minority among them engage in anti-social or criminal behaviour, or if such behaviour is falsely attributed, then we have malign actors, ready, willing and well organised waiting to stimulate civil unrest which could include physical violence.

v. Dispersal across multiple locations increases vulnerability to attack.

c. Dispersal should not rely on the opportunistic acquisition of property by a for-profit company but should be organised in full liaison and cooperation with local police forces and local authorities, the latter being particularly important in cases where children are involved.

d. Dispersal should be kept to an absolute minimum and , despite recent improvements, further re-allocation of human and financial resources toward the rapid processing of asylum claims and appeals is necessary.

4. Conference calls for;

a. Further Government action to implement the Liberal Democrat proposals for a rapid action task force to process asylum claims and appeals

b. Those awaiting decisions to be able to access temporary work visas so that they can self- fund their cost of living expenses.

c. Any dispersals into private rented accommodation to be conducted in full liaison with local authorities and police services who should be adequately resourced to cover the cost of additional support.

6. Commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights

Proposer	Max Wilkinson
Summator	TBD
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes:

A. The UK's proud post-war tradition as one of the founding countries to ratify the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), and the vital role the Convention has played in safeguarding human rights and holding the state to account.

B. The numerous instances in which the ECHR, and its domestic counterpart the Human Rights Act 1998, have delivered justice for ordinary people, including securing free speech, protecting the dignity of older and vulnerable people, and ensuring accountability for families affected by major public tragedies such as Hillsborough.

C. The Conservative Party's formal commitment to withdraw from the ECHR, including the requirement that all Conservative candidates support withdrawal in order to stand at the next General Election.

D. Reform UK's commitment to withdraw from the ECHR and repeal the Human Rights Act, including Nigel Farage's Ten Minute Rule Bill on 29 October 2025.

E. The Labour Government's proposal announced on 17 November 2025 to review specific articles of the ECHR and narrow their definition, creating uncertainty over the protection of fundamental rights.

Conference believes:

I. The ECHR remains essential to protect British people from abuse, discrimination and injustice, and to uphold the rule of law and fundamental freedoms in the UK.

II. Withdrawing from the ECHR would gravely undermine civil and human rights in the UK and weaken protections for the most vulnerable people.

III. The strength of the UK's soft power and international standing depends on its commitment to international law, human rights and democratic values - of which the ECHR is a cornerstone.

IV. Leaving the Convention would isolate the UK internationally and trigger our expulsion from the Council of Europe, putting us in the same bracket as Putin's Russia.

V. Reform and the Conservatives are proposing Brexit 2.0 - once again, this would be counterproductive to securing our borders and undermine the very relationships we need to strengthen with our European partners to build a fair and controlled immigration system.

Conference commends Liberal Democrat MPs for leading the opposition to Nigel Farage's bill to withdraw from the ECHR, and successfully defeating it in the House of Commons despite the Conservative Party's decision to support Nigel Farage.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Reaffirm the UK's full commitment to the ECHR and oppose any attempt to withdraw from it or water down fundamental rights, including protections against torture.

2. Refute Reform UK and the Conservatives' mischaracterisation of the ECHR, which falsely portrays it as a barrier to effective control of our borders while ignoring its role in protecting hard-won rights for British people.

3. Lead dialogue with our European allies to ensure the Convention remains fit for purpose and continues to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in a rapidly changing world.

7. LGBTQ+ Rights across the Commonwealth

Proposer	Ben Maguire MP
Summator	TBA
Submitted by	12 Party Members

Conference recognises the importance of the Commonwealth in Britain, the role it plays in enhancing strong diplomatic ties, educational links, sporting and cultural connections, as well as being a strong family link for many.

The Commonwealth is founded upon the principles of equality, human dignity, tolerance, freedom and respect for human rights.

Despite these founding principles being enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter, twenty-nine member countries criminalise consensual same-sex relations between adults. In some Commonwealth countries, transgender people face serious discrimination and criminalisation , and criminal laws are used to persecute members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Liberal Democrats have a proud record of fighting for equality under the law for everyone regardless of their sexual orientation or identity.

The Government plays a key role among the 56 member countries of the Commonwealth who meet every two years, the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is being held in Antigua and Barbuda later this year in November.

Conference calls on the Government and the Commonwealth Secretariat to use this year's meeting to address the issue of equality and ensure that:

1. The whole Commonwealth publicly recognises consensual same-sex relations between adults and ensures that the rights of transgender people are legally recognised and deserving of equal protection under law.

2. Member states are strongly encouraged to repeal legislation that criminalises same-sex relations and transgender people.

3. The Commonwealth wholly supports policies that combat discrimination towards the LGBTQ+ community.

8. Restoring LGBT+ Rights

Proposer Artie Khovanov

Summator Lucas North

Submitted by AO: LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

Conference notes that:

1. In 2002, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that trans people have a right to privacy over the sex they were assigned at birth, and a legal right to gender recognition.

2. In 2025, the UK Supreme Court ruled that "sex" in the Equality Act 2010 refers to sex assigned at birth, contrary to the express intentions of Parliament when the act was passed.

3.The Equality and Human Rights Commission has subsequently issued guidance which:

(a) prevents trans people from accessing facilities corresponding to their lived gender, and in some cases also the ones corresponding to their sex assigned at birth.

(b) suggests policing access to gendered facilities according to conformity to gender stereotypes.

(c) does not clearly explain how gendered associations may remain trans-inclusive.

4. The level of hate crimes recorded against trans people has more than doubled over the past decade.

5. There has been a rise in reports of gender non-conforming women being harassed when using the toilet.

6. Successive court rulings have radically expanded the definition of the protected characteristic of "religion or belief" under the Equality Act 2010 to include both gender-critical views and far-right views on race.

7. The current chair of the EHRC, Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson, was appointed by the Government against the advice of the Women and Equalities Committee of the House of Commons.

8. There are no openly trans Members of Parliament, and trans people are underrepresented in public life more broadly.

Conference reaffirms its beliefs that:

1. Trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary people deserve full recognition.

2. Everybody deserves to go about their daily lives in safety and dignity.

3. The rights of trans people and the rights of women are not in conflict, and both are essential to a free society.

Conference further believes that:

1. The Supreme Court ruling has rolled back trans people's rights, and the EHRC guidance is discriminatory and unworkable.

2. The interpretation of "religion or belief" in the Equality Act to encompass gender critical and far-right views is overly broad, and in particular threatens political organisations' freedom of association.

3. The UK risks failing to uphold its international commitments on human rights, and the status quo is incompatible with the Liberal Democrat objective of rejoining the European Union.

4. When a UK court interprets a law in a harmful way, the proper response under our parliamentary system is to seek to change the law.

Conference reaffirms its commitment to reforming the Gender Recognition Act to remove the requirement for medical reports, end the spousal veto, and recognise non-binary people in law.

Conference calls for:

1. Members of Parliament to reform the Equality Act, and and other equalities law as necessary, to

(a) explicitly use a trans-inclusive definition of "sex," making gendered facilities and services trans-inclusive by default while maintaining the proportionality-based system of exceptions that existed before the Supreme Court ruling on the matter.

(b) prevent the abuse of the protected characteristic of "religion of belief" to infringe on freedom of association, in line with the principles of Article 17 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

2. The EHRC to issue a new Code of Practice which clearly explains how gendered facilities, services and associations may remain trans-inclusive.

3. Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson to resign as chair of the EHRC, and for the Women and Equalities committee to be given the power to veto candidates for EHRC chair whom it deems unsuitable.

4. Trans people to be fully included in any process of reforming equalities law or producing statutory guidance.

9. Addressing Ethnic Minority Inequalities in Social and Privately-Rented Housing

Proposer Dr Mohsin Khan
Summator Humaira Sanders
Submitted by AO: Lib Dem Campaign for Race Equality

Conference notes:

1) Ethnic minority groups, such as Black British, Black Caribbean and Bangladeshi groups, are more likely to rent their own home, have lower housing wealth, and to experience housing deprivation - and homeownership has declined since 2001 compared to White British households;

2) Ethnic minority groups are disproportionately likely to be made homeless, to be moved out of their current area by local authorities, and to experience discrimination by landlords and estate agents;

3) All ethnic minority groups are more likely to live in the private rented sector, and this is the sector with the highest proportion of stock failing to meet the Decent Homes Standard; they are also more likely to live in poor quality homes;

4) In England and Wales all ethnic minority groups have higher levels of overcrowding than the White British groups, with the worst experienced by Bangladeshi (28%), Pakistani (21%) and Black African (21%) households compared to White British (2%) in 2021;

5) Black African and Bangladeshi-headed households are three times as likely to live in damp conditions as White British ones, and ethnic minority households are more likely to face cold and disrepair;

Conference further notes:

a) UK Government housing policies over the last decade have not identified ethnic minorities inequalities as a problem nor offered serious policy solutions or priorities explicitly around housing.

b) Liberal Democrat Policy Paper 155 rightly outlines a plan to expand social housing to 150,000 a year, to have better social housing from both councils and housing associations, to review the Decent Home Standards, and to better democratising tenant participation.

c) The Regulator of Social Housing has found inconsistent responses to damp and mould and highlighted the need for stronger oversight.

Conference believes:

a) Racial inequalities in housing have been caused by systemic discrimination in the past and the present that is not the fault of individual renters and owners, that have constrained choice, promoted insecurity and therefore overcrowding in the context of a widespread shortage of affordable homes.

Conference calls for Government to work on:

a) Ensuring better surveillance and mapping to map hotspots of housing concern, damp and mould cases, including working with the NHS and GPs to appropriate reporting and liaison with public health systems.

b) Ensuring robust private and public housing improvements for insulation, ventilation, temperature regulation, and damp/mould remediation do not leave behind areas with high ethnic minority populations.

c) Ensuring future Government responses to their reports on damp and mould in housing stock considers structural inequality rather than viewing damp and mould as technical defects alone, and consider how to dismantle underlying inequality causes.

d) Ensuring collection and publication of housing data on damp, mould, repairs, complaints, and outcomes are broken down by relevant location and by household ethnicity.

e) Ensuring social landlords promote anti-racism standards and training.

f) Housing Ombudsman Service and the new PRS Landlord Ombudsman to engage with equality reporting in their work

g) Areas with marked overcrowding to be prioritised in work to meet our social housing targets

International Affairs and Defence Motions

1. A Fair Deal for our Heroes

Proposer James MacCleary MP
Summator TBD
Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes the Conservatives' disastrous mismanagement of our armed forces while they were in power, leaving service personnel to languish in mouldy accommodation, privatised by them in the 1990s, while cutting our Army by 10,000 troops.

Conference welcomes the present Government listening to Liberal Democrat calls to assess family military accommodation against the Decent Homes Standard.

Conference further notes, however:

a. The findings of the Armed Forces Continuous Attitudes Survey (2026), which showed that over half of service personnel were not satisfied with service life in general.

b. The persistent and unfair challenges which our service personnel and veterans face, including:

i. The continuing and widespread poor quality of military accommodation, across both Service Family Accommodation (SFA) and Single Living Accommodation (SLA).

ii. The systemic harassment still faced by women service personnel, with 10% of all female personnel reporting being subject to sexual harassment in a service environment in the 12 months before June 2026.

iii. The inconsistencies across the military's medical discharge process, with evidence suggesting that around 70% of medically discharged veterans have a negative transition to civilian life.

c. That the UK's armed forces are facing severe overstretch, with the House of Commons Defence Committee recently sounding the alarm over the UK's ability to defend its homeland and Overseas Territories, and finding that we may be failing to meet our NATO Article 3 obligations to "maintain and develop individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack".

Conference believes:

I. We owe it to our incredible service personnel and veterans to do right by them, recognising the sacrifices they make to keep us safe.

II. Building a world-leading system of support and recognition for our service personnel and veterans is the best way to resolve the persistent issues in recruitment and retention across our military.

Conference reaffirms the policy recommendations proposed in Motion F7: A Fair Deal for the Armed Forces Community (2023) and calls on the UK Government to:

1. Introduce a national protocol to provide consistent access to public services for Armed Forces families.

2. Create a statutory duty for Single Living Accommodation to meet the Decent Homes Standard.

3. Implement the Atherton Report's recommendation that the MOD refers all sexual offences and domestic violence involving service personnel in the UK to the civilian police.

4. Normalise the visible appreciation of armed forces' service across British sport and culture, including by working with sporting bodies on a "Salute to Service" programme which would include more visual and public displays of appreciation for our service personnel.

5. Establish a compensation scheme for nuclear test veterans, similar to those which already exist in the United States, Canada and France.

6. Commission an independent Government review of the medical discharge process.

7. Require that medical records should be provided to veterans no later than one month after leaving the military to ensure discharged personnel can register with civilian GPs and continue to receive the appropriate treatment.

8. Embed tailored employment, housing, and financial advice within the discharge process and for recent leavers - defined as those who have been out of the services for less than a year - delivered by professionals trained to understand veterans' needs.

9. Require the MOD to conduct a pre-discharge mental health assessment and effective handover to civilian support for service personnel leaving the armed forces.

10. Ensure that veterans receive suitable support from NHS medical and mental health services on discharge, and that there is full continuity of care between any medical treatment in service and that after discharge.

11. Appoint a Veterans' Mental Health Oversight Officer to oversee the care and treatment of veterans.

12. Conduct a fresh review of armed forces recruitment processes, to ensure all possible steps are being taken to make these processes efficient and consistent across the military.

2. Tackling Russia's aggression and intimidation across Europe

Proposer	David Chalmers
Summator	TBD
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

a. Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine will soon enter its sixth year. Putin has shown no genuine interest in pursuing peace with Ukraine, and remains intent on conquering the entire country.

b. Putin's aggression has not been limited to Ukraine. The Kremlin is ramping up its campaigns of aggression and hybrid warfare across the rest of Europe, including:

i. Multiple breaches of NATO's airspace and, in May 2026, a Russian drone crashing into a residential building in the Romanian town of Galati, injuring two people.

ii. Increasing suspected acts of sabotage across Europe and against critical infrastructure, including in the UK - with clear evidence in court that Russia targeted the Prime Minister's former home and car in arson attacks.

iii. A systematic programme of spreading disinformation and applying covert influence to try to undermine democracy, perhaps most evident in the Russian-supported democratic backsliding that has occurred in Georgia - and also being attempted in Moldova, and across the Balkan and Baltic states.

iv. Expanding its 'Shadow Fleet' of sanctioned vessels for carrying Russian oil to market, delivering illegal profits which go straight to funding Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Conference believes that:

I. The UK must lead global efforts to punish Putin and his cronies for the war in Ukraine, and to protect ourselves and our allies from the disinformation being peddled by the Kremlin.

II. The UK is already in a form of hybrid war with Russia, with the Kremlin operating in a 'grey zone' below the escalatory threshold - to which the UK must respond more robustly.

Conference welcomes the campaign win secured by Liberal Democrats in Parliament - spearheaded by our Leader in the House of Lords, Jeremy Purvis - which forced the Government to commit to a termination date for its shameful waiver of certain sanctions on the import of fuel and diesel derived from Russian oil.

Conference reaffirms:

I. The policy recommendations proposed in Motion F33: Standing with Ukraine (2023).

II. The Liberal Democrats' commitment to forcefully stand up to Putin and in defence of democracy, both in Ukraine and the rest of Europe.

Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:

1. Rapidly rearm Britain, including by issuing £20 billion in defence bonds to support immediate investment in regenerating the UK's military after years of Conservative cuts.

2. Reaffirm the UK's commitment to NATO and, in the context of Donald Trump's ambivalence towards the Alliance, seek to position the UK as NATO's framework nation.

3. Introduce a comprehensive ban on UK businesses providing maritime services for the export of Russian fossil fuels, including oil, oil products, gas and coal - and work with international partners to encourage them to do the same.

4. Expand the Royal Navy's interception of Russian Shadow Fleet vessels operating illegally near British waters, seize and sell the oil being transported, and send the resulting funds to Ukraine to support its war effort.

5. Seize the £30 billion in frozen Russian assets currently held across the UK and send this money directly to Ukraine to support and bolster its front line - while working with international partners to do the same.

6. Enhance and expand the UK's technology cooperation with Ukraine on military projects.

7. Sanction leading members of the Georgian Dream party - including Bidzina Ivanishvili, its founder and honorary chairman, and his close associates - and Irakli Rukhadze, a co-founder of Hunnewell Partners.

8. Support the continuing and expanded operation of the BBC World Service in those countries facing persistent Russian disinformation campaigns.

9. Stop the flow of Russian money into our politics and Kremlin support for extreme political actors, including through:

a. A new "Gill Bill" placing requirements on candidates and political figures to declare any gifts or income they have received from the Russian state or its proxies.

b. Banning anyone who has served as a political appointee in the central government of a current foreign administration from making donations.

c. Banning foreign funded digital political advertising which is currently uncapped.

d. A dedicated strategy to counter Russian support and funding for extreme and far right causes that are designed to foster division and violence in our communities.

3. International Security policy paper (FPC)

Proposer	TBC
Summator	Dr Ben Jones
Submitted by	Federal Policy Committee

Conference is deeply concerned that the critical assumptions that have shaped the security policy of the United Kingdom since the end of the Cold War can no longer be taken for granted. A period of relative stability in international politics has given way to one of deep uncertainty, upheaval, and turbulent change caused by:

- Russia's brutal and illegal invasion of Ukraine, wider disregard for international law, destabilising actions, and threats to the security and democratic integrity of other states, which have undermined an already fragile post-Cold War European security settlement.

- President Trump's dangerous and intentional disregard for the multilateral international order that his predecessors helped to shape, including his direct threats to the territorial integrity of our close allies Canada and Denmark and his desire to "punish" European allies over lack of support for his war with Iran, which has severely undermined decades of deep trust and interdependence between the US and the UK.

- China's ambition to become the dominant global power through its control of critical minerals and technological advances, creating systemic vulnerabilities for our national security, including through supply chain dependencies and risks to our critical infrastructure.

Conference understands that we face urgent and stark challenges driven by heightened great-power competition, rapid technological advances, climate change, and the erosion of respect for long-standing democratic norms, international law, and multilateral institutions.

Conference believes it is therefore necessary to rethink how best to protect British national security interests and advance our liberal values in this unfamiliar environment, and that the UK needs an international security policy that is both robust and adaptable to the broad range of circumstances that may emerge from the present upheaval.

Conference notes that on leaving office, the Conservatives left our armed forces in a parlous state and our relations with the European Union deeply damaged.

Conference supports the analysis and aims of the recent Strategic Defence Review, but is deeply disappointed by the Government's lack of urgency and vigour in providing adequate funding and pursuing the necessary changes to national security policy.

Conference therefore endorses policy paper 16X, *Strength, Resilience and Partnership: Securing Britain and Defending Liberalism in Turbulent Times*, in particular its policies to:

1. Strengthen UK defences by:
    a. Maintaining and deepening British support to Ukraine, including through continued financial, diplomatic and military support.

    b. Ensuring our armed forces, to whom the Liberal Democrats remain hugely grateful for their dedication and sacrifice, are properly equipped and trained to deal with the challenges of a rapidly evolving defence and security environment, particularly those related to game-changing technological advances.

c. Meeting the NATO spending target of 3.5% of GDP on core defence requirements and a further 1.5% on “defence and security related spending” by 2035, and reaching 3% by 2030, recognising that this will likely require difficult fiscal choices.

d. Kickstarting investment in the regeneration of our armed forces by raising £20bn through the sale of defence bonds.

e. Ensuring that additional resources for defence are not wasted by increasing transparency, scrutiny and accountability of the Ministry of Defence, including through new bodies such as a dedicated House of Commons Defence Public Accounts Committee.

f. Conducting a full assessment on the degree to which UK military capabilities need in the medium-to-long term to be fully sovereign, developed and operated with allies or acquired internationally “off the shelf”.

2. Work more closely with our European allies towards these aims by:

    a. Seeking to join the EU single market, which would provide enhanced access to, and greater influence over, EU defence capability funding and development programmes.

    b. Supporting pooling, sharing and specialisation initiatives for military capabilities where appropriate to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of European defence spending.

    c. Proposing the creation of a European Security Council that would provide strategic leadership on defence industrial rationalisation and the joint development and operation of military capabilities, in order to better support the delivery of NATO’s operational requirements.

    d. Seeking UK involvement in EU military and civilian missions and deepening long-term EU-UK cooperation via diplomatic and military exchange programmes.

3. Build national resilience by:

    a. Establishing a new Civil Defence Office to coordinate and strengthen whole-of-society resilience.

    b. Creating a new Civil Volunteer Reserve to ensure that necessary skills can be made available to a national effort at short notice.

    c. Building whole-of-society resilience with a serious but calm national conversation to raise public awareness of what is at stake.

    d. Ensuring that the UK meets its resilience commitments to NATO under Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

4. Defend the principle and practice of multilateralism by:

    a. Defending global institutions and norms which are critical to our national security and prosperity.

    b. Working with Canada and other like-minded ‘middle powers’ to develop an effective cooperation mechanism as a counterweight to states seeking to undermine multilateralism and the international rules-based order.

    c. Prioritising and injecting greater urgency into efforts to strengthen or develop international agreements on new technologies including autonomous weapons, and on

risks relating to the use of space, and on effective global governance relating to Artificial Intelligence that protects the safety and security of our citizens.

d. Pushing polar and maritime security issues higher up domestic and international agendas

4. Israel-Palestine: Taking the Last Chance to Save the Two-State Solution

Proposer Anne-Marie Simpson

Summator Jonathan Brown

Submitted by AO: Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

Conference notes:

I. The terminal threat to the two-state solution posed by record levels of Israeli settlement expansion and settler violence in the occupied West Bank, leading to mass forced displacement and the ethnic cleansing of entire Palestinian communities.

II. The constant attacks and displacement of civilians living in Palestine, Lebanon and in parts of northern Israel.

III. That Israel has pressed ahead with its 'Doomsday' E1 settlement project, publishing 3,401 tenders in June, and that this will sever East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, destroying any chance of a sovereign and contiguous Palestinian State, as is the stated aim of Israeli ministers.

IV. That one impact of the Hamas attacks on October 7th is that they have further eroded trust on the Israeli side that a two-state solution is possible to achieve.

V. That Israel in February introduced new legislation to facilitate the further confiscation of Palestinian land in the West Bank and deepen Israeli control over the occupied State of Palestine, further cementing its de facto annexation of the territory.

VI. That continued Israeli ceasefire violations in Gaza have led to the confirmed deaths of over 1000 Palestinians and the injury of many more since it came into force, and that Israel has continued its systematic obstruction of humanitarian access to the strip.

VII. That President Trump's 'Board of Peace' lacks credibility and viability as a mechanism for securing a just and lasting settlement and ignores the New York Declaration, to which Britain and other Western and Arab governments have signed up.

VIII. That the Gaza peace process is severely compromised by the exclusion of Palestinians from governance, the failure to set out a timeline for IDF withdrawal or Hamas disarmament, the funding of anti-Hamas militia by Israel, the lack of a clear pathway to a two-state solution, and that senior Israeli ministers have renewed calls to ethnically cleanse Palestinians from the strip.

IX. That Israel is currently holding over 3,000 Palestinians – including children, women and medical workers – in custody without charge or trial, amid widespread evidence of systematic torture and ill-treatment.

X. That Israel's newly adopted "Death Penalty for Terrorists Law", which mandates death by hanging for Palestinians only, entrenches discrimination and a two-tiered system of justice, both hallmarks of apartheid.

XI. That the Prime Minister and other ministers in the Israeli cabinet regularly promote their Greater Israel Project, which not only assumes Israeli ownership of all Palestinian territory but also Lebanon, Jordan and significant parts of Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

XII. That attempts to curtail access to Jerusalem's holy sites, including forced closures, military raids, and challenges to Jordan's custodianship, risk undermining freedom of worship, inflaming tensions, and eroding the historic and legal status quo.

XIII. That the UK has continued to provide military support and diplomatic backing to Israel despite mounting evidence of serious violations of international law, raising concerns about UK complicity in such violations.

XIV. That the proscription of Palestine Action as a terrorist group, and the arrest of 3,300 people holding signs supporting Palestine Action, limits fundamental democratic freedoms and curtails legitimate protest and advocacy for Palestinian rights.

XV. That continued impunity for Israel's international crimes, alongside attempts to intimidate, sanction or obstruct the ICC in response to investigations and arrest warrants, is undermining the independence and effectiveness of the international legal system across all contexts.

XVI. That the UK has historic responsibilities to uphold the rights of the Palestinian people, and as such should be taking firm leadership to promote a just solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict.

Conference reaffirms:

I. The Autumn 2021 Federal Conference motion Towards a Lasting Peace (F39), the Autumn Conference 2023 Federal Conference motion Standing with Ukraine (F33), the Autumn 2024 Federal Conference motion The Israel-Gaza Conflict – an immediate bilateral ceasefire and securing two states (F32), and the Autumn 2025 Federal Conference motion Towards a Ceasefire and Political Resolution in Sudan (F43).

II. The Liberal Democrat commitment to international law and the universal protection of human rights.

III. The Liberal Democrat commitment to the territorial integrity of Lebanon, Syria, Israel and the State of Palestine within the internationally recognised 1967 borders and the rights of all four countries to defend their borders.

Conference calls on the UK Government to use every available lever to pressure the Israeli Government to end its flagrant violations of international law, including by:

1. Suspending all arms transfers to and from Israel, including through multinational programmes, and suspend military, intelligence, training and security cooperation pending compliance with international law.

2. Suspending the UK–Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement while its human rights clause remains breached, and audit all bilateral cooperation in trade, research, procurement and finance, with the hope that the Agreement can be reinstated when the concerns are dealt with.

3. Banning all trade in goods, services and investments with Israel's illegal settlements, including financial, legal, insurance, tourism, digital and other professional services, and strengthening differentiation measures between Israel and settlements in trade, investment and procurement policy to

make absolutely explicit the distinction between the legally recognised state and economy of Israel and the illegal occupation.

4. Making it a criminal offence for British nationals, residents and legal entities to buy, market, finance or facilitate the purchase of settlement property.

5. Implementing a package of sanctions, including fines for any UK firms that bid for tenders relating to illegal settlement construction in the E1 area or elsewhere in occupied Palestine.

6. Suspending visa-free access to the UK for all Israeli settlers living in occupied Palestine.

7. Sanctioning Israeli ministers and IDF generals who are directly implicated in serious violations of international law.

8. Building a coalition of willing allies to press for unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza around measurable access benchmarks, deadlines and automatic diplomatic, trade and sanctions consequences for continued obstruction.

Conference further calls on the UK Government to work with partners to uphold the Geneva Conventions and other relevant international legal obligations, and to support international accountability efforts by:

A. Protecting the right of the ICC and other international accountability mechanisms to investigate possible war crimes in Israel and Palestine by either Israel or Hamas according to their mandates and remits, and providing the ICC with diplomatic support in the face of efforts to undermine the Court.

B. Affirming that those subject to ICC arrest warrants will be detained if they enter the UK, and lobbying other governments to enforce the warrants.

C. Providing the ICC with any evidence it has collected, such as intelligence from RAF surveillance flights over Gaza.

D. Insisting that journalists, investigators, human rights monitors, and diplomats are granted unimpeded access to conflict zones to collect evidence, monitor violations, and support international accountability efforts, and impose sanctions on ministers and officials who obstruct such access.

E. Empowering the British police to investigate, arrest and prosecute any British citizens who are suspected of complicity in war crimes in any conflict, including the Israel-Palestine conflict, applying the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 (as amended) and other relevant legislation.

5. Justice and Self-Determination for Kashmir

Proposer To be confirmed

Summator To be confirmed

Submitted by AO: Liberal Democrat Campaign for Race Equality

Conference notes:

1. That Kashmir remains one of the longest-unresolved disputes on the agenda of the UN Security Council, originating in the 1947 Partition of British India.

2. UN Security Council Resolution 47 (1948) and the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan resolutions of 1948–49, which provide for the territory's final status to be settled by a free and impartial plebiscite held under UN auspices.

3. The Indian Government's unilateral revocation in August 2019 of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, revoking the region's autonomy, accompanied by mass detentions, a prolonged communications blackout, and severe restrictions on movement, assembly and the press.

4. The two reports of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2018 and 2019), corroborated by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists, documenting grave violations attributed to the Indian armed forces, and also human rights violations by Pakistan.

Conference believes:

1. That, as set out in the preamble to the Liberal Democrat constitution, "sovereignty rests with the people and that authority in a democracy derives from the people. We therefore acknowledge their right to determine the form of government best suited to their needs".

2. That self-determination is a fundamental right of all the peoples of Pakistan-administered and Indian-administered Kashmir, to be exercised peacefully and democratically under international law.

3. That where violations are widespread or systematic they may amount to crimes against humanity, or to war crimes where committed in armed conflict, and that only an independent international investigation can establish criminal responsibility: a process the UK must support, not obstruct.

Conference calls on the UK Government to:

1. Abandon their “bilateral issue” stance and actively support a UN-supervised, self-determination-based settlement.

2. Support the establishment of an independent UN Commission of Inquiry, mandated to assess allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity by all relevant actors.

3. Demand unhindered access for international human rights monitors and journalists, and the restoration of civil liberties, media freedom and internet access on both sides of the ceasefire line.

4. Call for demilitarisation consistent with the protection of civilian life, and review UK arms-export licences against the risk of internal repression.

Conference resolves that the Liberal Democrats will pursue a campaign for the above actions and highlight it in particular to the UK communities who are most affected.

ENDS

Notes:

This motion has been drafted with support and collaboration from Liberal Democrat Friends of Kashmir.

This issue is of great concern to the UK communities of Indian and Pakistani heritage, particularly the latter as the majority of UK citizens of Pakistani heritage come from Kashmir.

Our party does not appear to have any policy on Kashmir.

Successive Labour and Conservative governments have maintained a hands-off approach to Kashmir, considering it a ‘bilateral issue’ that India and Pakistan should be left to resolve on their own. – see https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0237/i

Since this issue has been ongoing for nearly 80 years this approach has failed. The Green Party adopted a policy on Kashmir and publicised it widely in key areas during the recent elections which could be seen as one reason they did so well.

The Liberal Democrats need to improve their standing among ethnic minority voters, who comprise nearly one in five of the electorate, as surveys have our party currently lagging behind Labour, the Conservatives and the Greens. Adopting a policy that reflects a major concern would help us to show that the party does recognise and act upon concerns.

Political and Constitutional Reform Motions

1. Defending Democracy

Proposer Lisa Smart MP
Summator Sarah Lewis
Submitted by Federal Policy Committee

Conference believes that democracy in Britain is under threat from:

i) Foreign states and billionaires who seek to use money and media interference to unduly influence British politicians and British elections.

ii) The rapid rise of new technologies which makes it easier for misinformation from malign actors to spread fear and confusion, stirring up racial hatred and moral panic; and which amplifies grievance narratives that leave people vulnerable to radicalisation.

iii) An historic low in public trust in British politics, compounded by a First Past the Post voting system for general elections and the further centralisation of power in Westminster.

Conference notes that these threats are evident in the results of the latest British Social Attitudes Survey (February 2026) and in the independent findings of the recent Rycroft Review.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' commitment to:

A. Introduce proportional representation by the Single Transferable Vote for electing
B. Westminster MPs and local councillors in England.
C. Expand the franchise to 16- and 17-year olds.
D. Introduce measures such as automatic voter registration and removal of the need for ID that make it easier for people to vote.
E. Reform the House of Lords with a proper democratic mandate.
F. Introduce a codified constitution.
G. Strengthen local government.
H. A Federal Britain.

Additionally, conference resolves to address these problems by tackling undue influence head on, and by building the resilience of individual citizens and communities, giving people the power to make informed choices about their own lives and to see their choices fairly reflected in the actions of government at all levels.

Conference therefore welcomes policy paper 164 Defending Democracy, and in particular endorses its proposals to:

1. Tackle undue influence by foreign states by:

a) Assigning clear responsibility at ministerial and Senior Civil Service (SCS) levels for combatting foreign political interference, with resources commensurate to the challenge this poses to our democracy.
b) Prohibiting anyone who has served as a political appointee in the central government of a foreign state from donating to UK political parties for a period of ten years.

c) Conducting a standalone review into the extent of US interference in British politics, including the extent to which known British extremists are being actively supported by the White House.

d) Requiring candidates for national elected office to declare any past or current income or gifts from any government on the FIRS enhanced tier list or from any person or organisation connected to that government.

2. Tackle undue influence of big money in politics by:

a) Introducing a total year-round cap on political spending by political parties.
b) Introducing a donation cap on individual donations, and an annual donation cap on individuals, including for gifts to politicians, with a Royal Commission to develop specific figures; the Commission should also develop limits on corporate donations.

c) Introducing national spending limits for the regulated period of local elections to close a potential loophole.

d) Working towards radical real-time transparency for political advertising, donations and spending, including an easily searchable public database of all online political Adverts.

3. Strengthening enforcement of electoral law, including by:

a) Protecting and strengthening the independence of the Electoral Commission, following Conservative attempts to undermine it.
b) Setting up a dedicated national policing unit within the National Crime Agency, specifically dedicated to tackling corruption and criminal behaviour within Westminster and Whitehall, including criminal breaches of electoral law.
c) Ensuring the sentencing associated with each criminal offence in electoral law matches the seriousness of the offence

4. Urgently convene a Constitutional Convention to enshrine fundamental shared British values, rights and freedoms in a new codified constitution; this will act as the first line of defence against the multiple threats we face to our democracy.

5. Promoting a vigorous local democratic culture as the bedrock for a healthy democracy by:

a) Ending the top-down reorganisation of councils and the imposition of elected mayors on communities who do not want them.
b) Devolving more fiscal and economic power to local authorities.
c) Supporting the presence of community, town and parish councils.

6. Strengthening resilience in face of the spread of misinformation and hatred in all forms of media by:

a) Commissioning a second Leveson-type review of media regulation, recognising that the media scene has evolved significantly since the original Leveson Inquiry reported in 2012.
b) Introducing lifelong learning for all citizens about the digital public sphere and how to navigate it.
c) Funding local journalism and independent fact-checkers with a share of a levy on very large social media platforms; and making it easier for these organisations to gain charitable status.

7. Promoting informed citizenship and countering radicalisation by:

a) Strengthening citizenship education in primary and secondary schools, with a greater focus on political and media literacy; and elevating the academic status of Citizenship GCSE.
b) Increasing the public funding available to civil society organisations who can play a role in citizenship education, including political media literacy - this should include the creation of a

long-term, ringfenced Community Democratic Resilience Fund to support youth services, training for educators and parents, and local democratic participation initiatives.

c) Conducting a full overhaul of Prevent including to deliver a new counter-radicalisation programme – a community-led engagement strategy focused on minimising exposure to pathways towards violent extremism and to meet the challenges of today's threats.
d) Ensuring that counter-radicalisation approaches also uphold protections for academic freedom, journalistic activity and legitimate political dissent, including upholding the right to protest.

2. Free to believe: A secular state for a modern society

Proposer Jenny Wilkinson
Summator Sam Al-Hamdani
Submitted by AO: Humanist and Secularist Liberal Democrats

Conference notes that:

A. The UK has increasing diversity of religion or belief, alongside a growing number of people who identify as non-religious.

B. In the 2021 census of England and Wales, for the first time, less than half (46.2%) of the respondents described themselves as Christian, with 37.2% indicating that they had no religion, 6.5% stating they are Muslim and 4.2% following other religions. The remainder did not answer this optional question.

C. A report published in March 2026 set out the findings from a survey examining British people's attitudes to religion and society, commissioned by the National Secular Society and conducted by More In Common. This revealed that many of those surveyed oppose specific privileges given to the Church of England. For example, 63% think no religious clerics should have automatic seats in the House of Lords.

D. Less than 2% of the population regularly attend Church of England church services. Nevertheless, the Church of England retains its position as the established church in England, along with various privileges associated with this. There is no established church in Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, the Church of Scotland is considered the ‘national church’, with the monarch being its head.

Conference believes that:

I. Individuals should have freedom of religion or belief and be free to reject or change their belief, in line with existing human rights law.

II. There should be equal treatment and no privilege or discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief.

III. There should be a separation between religious institutions and state institutions.

IV. Public funds should not be used to advance one religion over another, or over none.

Conference calls for:

1. The Government to disestablish the Church of England, including ensuring:

a. an end to the Sovereign’s role as Supreme Governor of the Church of England and removal of the constitutional links between the Crown and the established Church;

b. the Church of England Bishops’ automatic seats are removed from the House of Lords;

c. ecclesiastical law ceases to form part of the law of England and Wales and ecclesiastical courts cease to have any legal jurisdiction; and

d. the role of the UK Parliament in the governance of the Church of England ceases and legislation providing for state oversight of the Church is repealed.

2. The removal of prayers at the start of meetings of elected bodies, including Parliament and councils.

3. The replacement of mandatory collective worship in schools with inclusive, non-religious assemblies.

4. Ending religious discrimination in state-funded school admissions, employment, and the curriculum.

5. The abolition of Chancel repair liability in England and Wales.

6. Improved access to non-religious pastoral care in institutional and community settings, including hospitals, prisons, universities and the military.

3. RESTORING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY - REGISTERS OF INTEREST FOR PUBLIC DECISION MAKERS

Proposer Cllr Richard Clein

Summator Lord Mike Storey CBE

Submitted by 22 Party Members

Conference notes:

i. The evolving governance systems in local and national government processes over the past 20 years have led to greater delegation of decision-making powers to civil servants at local and national government levels.

ii. The number of well-documented governance failures in local authorities across the country which highlight the lack of sufficient elected member oversight and accountability for decisions taken by officers under delegated powers.

iii. The findings of the Public Interest Reports into Northamptonshire County Council in 2018 and the London Borough of Croydon (2020); the findings of the Best Value inspections in Slough and Liverpool (2021) and the findings of reviews into Thurrock Council (2022) where although the circumstances of these authorities differed, a common theme identified by inspectors, auditors and government-appointed commissioners was the concentration of decision-making authority, insufficient transparency, inadequate scrutiny and weak governance safeguards.

Conference further notes:

i. All elected members in Councils or in Parliament, especially those most closely involved in decision making, already have to declare any and all relevant interests, whose details are then, quite rightly made publicly available. That public disclosure also has to include, for example, details of any gifts refused.

ii. The response to a written parliamentary question (HL6072. April 2025) focusing on the transparency and governance of officers' financial and non-financial interests in which the Government acknowledged that each local authority is responsible for setting its own policies on declaration of pecuniary interests by its officers.

iii. The so-called 'revolving door' policy which allows senior civil servants and former ministers to assume positions in the private sector almost immediately after leaving their previous government posts has been acknowledged as woefully inadequate.

iv. The lack of independence, the lack of statutory power, and the Prime Minister's ultimate control over the investigations and outcomes of the Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards, aappointed by the Prime Minister to advise him on matters relating to the Ministerial Code

v. The urgent necessity of adopting the proposed change in policy at the earliest opportunity.

Conference therefore resolves to:

i. Ensure that in line with the long-term Liberal Democrat commitment to open government, an appropriate suite of safeguards is put in place to maximise transparency of all governmental decision-making for the citizens of this country at both national and local level.

ii. Support the devising and implementation, as soon as practicable, of a similar system of declaration of interests to that applicable to politicians, for those local and national civil servants above an appropriate specified grade, details of which will also be made readily available to our citizens in a public register - notwithstanding any legally applicable data protection constraints.

iii. Issue guidance in due course to those local authorities currently controlled by the Liberal Democrats regarding implementation by them of similar disclosure initiatives to improve transparency around decision making by officers under delegated powers.

iv. Replacing the Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards with an independent body with actual power to prevent potentially questionable moves by civil servants and former ministers into the private sector.

Transport Motions

1. For a Fare Deal: Bus Travel for Young People

Proposer TBC

Summator TBC

Submitted by AO: Young Liberals

Conference notes:

A. Buses are the most used form of public transport in England and are particularly important to young people, many of whom are either unable to drive or lack access to a vehicle.

B. The cost, availability and reliability of buses affect the accessibility of education and training, work, healthcare and social life.

C. Across the UK, over 1 million young people aged 16-24 are not in education, employment or training.

D. Youth concessions are inconsistent across England and are largely a matter of local discretion.

E. The £1 single and £3 day fares for 5 to 21-year-olds secured by Welsh Liberal Democrats supported over 2 million bus journeys over a 4-month period.

F. Zero-emission buses often have lower operating costs compared to diesel buses despite higher upfront costs.

Conference reaffirms existing Liberal Democrat policies to extend half-fares to 18 year olds and to introduce a Young Person's Buscard for 19-25 year olds.

Conference believes that:

i) Affordable and reliable buses give young people freedom and independence, and boost their life chances.

ii) Cheap fares are of little value unless services are safe, reliable and are where and when young people need them.

iii) Young people should have a strong voice when decisions which affect the services they use are made.

iv) Passengers should benefit from net savings made due to public investment in cleaner buses.

Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:

1. Introduce an Under-25 Bus Pass, at £30 a month, which allows unlimited travel on local bus services throughout England, across all operators and all local authority boundaries.

2. Work to automatically issue youth bus passes to all eligible young people.

3. Require and Empower Local Transport Authorities to:

a) Publish an Education Transport Guarantee setting out how young people can reach their place of education affordably, be that schools, colleges, training providers or apprenticeships.

b) Conduct a Youth Access Assessment accompanied by appropriate mitigation measures before reducing service on routes used to reach places of education.

c) Prevent the withdrawal of bus services which are designated as a socially necessary local service due to providing access to a place of education during term time in the absence of affordable and practical alternative public transport.

d) Set minimum evening service standards for key routes widely used by young people

4. Support local transport authorities to establish Youth Transport Panels, allowing young people to have a voice in transport decisions that affect them such as fare and route changes.

5. Help keep passengers safe by requiring buses to stop on request after dark when it is lawful and safe.

6. Provide multi-year funding settlements for youth fare schemes which are separate from funding for socially necessary services so that lower fares do not lead to service cuts.

7. Ensure publicly funded zero-emission bus schemes publish plans setting out how net operational savings will either result in lower fares or better services.

2. A Fair Deal for Passengers: A Passengers' Charter for Rail and Air

Proposer Olly Glover

Summator tbc

Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes:

I. Passengers have endured years of above-inflation fare rises that have left British rail fares among the highest in Europe, and the welcome but temporary freeze on regulated fares to March 2027 guarantees nothing about the quality of service passengers receive in return.

II. Reliability and overcrowding remain persistent problems, while the basic on-board amenities passengers pay for such as working WiFi and mobile coverage, power outlets, clean and accessible toilets, and space for luggage, bikes and pushchairs are routinely unreliable with no compensation when they fail.

III. Research for Trainline found 29% of passengers did not claim delay compensation they were due in 2025, leaving an estimated £80 million or more unclaimed each year.

IV. Disabled passengers are repeatedly let down, with the Office for Rail and Road finding that 11% received none of the assistance they had booked in 2024-25, and still no enforceable right to "turn up and go" travel.

V. The ORR found just 31% of passengers were satisfied with how their complaint was handled.

VI. The protections that do exist are a fragmented patchwork, with no single, enforceable guarantee of the standard of service passengers can expect.

Conference further notes:

I. Air passengers fare no better, with some of the weakest enforceable rights of any consumers.

II. The Civil Aviation Authority's complaints team is unable to enforce individual compensation decisions and airlines only join dispute-resolution schemes only voluntarily, leaving court action as the only guaranteed route to redress.

III. Families are routinely split up unless they pay, with the CAA estimating that passengers spend around £175 million a year on seat reservations that were unnecessary.

IV. There is no legal right for a child to sit with their parent, and the Competition and Markets Authority has opened a formal investigation into the fees Ryanair charges parents to sit with their children.

V. The cost of simply taking a bag keeps rising and varies wildly between carriers, with cabin-bag charges that can double the price of a budget fare and inconsistent size limits that leave passengers guessing whether a bag accepted by one airline will be turned away by another.

VI. Disabled passengers are too often failed and put at risk, with airlines damaging at least 1,217 wheelchairs in 2023.

VII. The Liberal Democrats have led the way on this issue and tabled a Rail Passengers' Charter Amendment to the Railways Bill, and an Air Passengers' Charter Amendment to the Civil Aviation Bill.

Conference believes:

A. Passengers deserve enforceable guarantees of comfort, reliability, accessibility and value for money, not vague promises.

B. Compensation that passengers are owed should be paid automatically and digitally, not lost to a claims process that most never complete.

C. Passengers rightly expect a good and reliable experience as part of rail and air journeys, and compensation arrangements should no longer be restricted to delays.

D. Accessibility is a right for the whole door-to-door journey, not just on the train or aircraft.

E. The same charter approach proposed by the Liberal Democrats that protects rail passengers should protect air passengers too.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Put the Liberal Democrat Passengers' Charter on a statutory footing, with Great British Railways legally bound to deliver it.

2. Implement automatic and digital compensation, extended to cover failures to provide the amenities passengers were promised, such as lack of aircon, working toilets or pushchair space, with automated compensation provided where technologically practicable.

3. Enforce the existing legal right to spontaneous "turn up and go" assistance on the railways, with guaranteed redress whenever assistance fails.

4. Accessibility guarantees that cover the whole journey, including stations, the areas around them, connecting services and rail replacement transport.

5. A single, free, independent Passenger Rights Ombudsman which covers both air and rail, with binding decisions and mandatory operator membership, backed by powers for both regulators to impose meaningful fines.

Further calls on the government to:

1. Fully back the Liberal Democrat Air Passengers' Charter Amendment including through legislation currently before parliament, with the CAA legally bound to deliver it.

2. Protect existing air passenger compensation levels, with no watering-down of delay and cancellation rights, and full and fair compensation for wheelchairs and mobility equipment damaged on any flight.

3. Standardising cabin baggage size limits across all airlines, so that a single bag accepted by one airline is not rejected by another and passengers are spared confusion and unexpected charges.

4. Guaranteeing that children are seated with their parent or guardian on the same booking at no extra charge.

5. Guaranteeing that a carer is seated alongside the person they care for on the same booking at no extra charge.

6. Creating "wheelchair passports" so that a disabled passenger's mobility equipment and access needs are recorded once and recognised throughout their journey rather than re-explained at every stage.

3. Getting Britain Walking, Wheeling and Cycling: A National Active Travel Strategy

Proposer Olly Glover

Summator tbc

Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

I. Enabling more people to walk, wheel and cycle short journeys eases congestion, improves local air quality, and helps tackle the public health crisis driven by physical inactivity.

II. The potential for walking, wheeling, and cycling to assist in reducing congestion is illustrated by the fact that 59% of car and van journeys are made for distances of 5 miles or under, according to the 2024/25 National Travel Survey.

III. Research by Active Travel England indicating that 5.3 million more people being regularly physical active could reduce annual sick days by 4.4 million, free up 1.7 million GP appointments, help millions of households save around £1,700 yearly, prevent 2,500 premature deaths, and boost the economy by £115 billion.

IV. Transport remains one of the largest sources of UK greenhouse gas emissions, and giving people easy, low-carbon options for local journeys is essential to meeting the UK's climate commitments.

V. The potential for walking, wheeling, and cycling to assist in reducing congestion is illustrated by the fact that 59% of car and van journeys are made for distances of 5 miles or under, according to the 2024/25 National Travel Survey.

VI. Active travel improves public health by integrating exercise into everyday routines, preventing serious conditions like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity.

VII. It also lowers stress, boosts mental well-being, reduces road congestion, and cuts emissions to clean up local air quality.

VIII. The 2025 Walking and Cycling Index, produced by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, estimates that everyday active travel prevents almost 156,000 serious long-term health conditions across the UK each year - from hip fractures to dementia and depression - saving the NHS around £1.94 billion annually.

IX. The Department for Transport estimates that for every £1 invested in active travel, the government achieves around £4.30 in benefits.

X. Despite these structural savings, active travel funding remains volatile, piecemeal, and repeatedly exposed to central government budget cuts.

XI. Calls from 18 public health, environmental, and walking/wheeling/cycling organisations for 10% of the transport budget to be dedicated to walking, cycling, and wheeling investment.

Conference believes that:

A. Walking, wheeling and cycling should be safe and attractive choices for short everyday journeys.

B. Investment in active travel is not merely transport policy but a preventative intervention for public health, local economies and the environment.

C. Too many new housing developments still leave residents with little practical alternative to the car for everyday journeys, and better design from the outset can change that.

Conference calls for:

I. The ring-fencing of 5% of the Department for Transport’s annual budget for active travel infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling, with a trajectory to achieve the increase from current spending percentages to 10% to be developed when finances allow.

II. A national ‘Rails to Trails’ programme to convert disused railway corridors, towpaths and redundant infrastructure into high-quality, interconnected routes for walking, wheeling and cycling.

III. A reform of the National Planning Policy Framework to require continuous, high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure in all new housing developments from the outset.

IV. A requirement that new developments connect to existing active travel networks and public transport hubs, as well as town and city centres where appropriate, so that residents always have genuine, convenient options for short trips.

V. Encouragement and funding to be made available for Mayoral Development Corporations to deliver active travel networks within, and pedestrianisation of, key cultural and commercial areas in cities, such as Soho or around Covent Garden, if desired.

VI. Encouragement and funding for the wider rollout of “School Streets” and "Cycle Streets”, designing streets that feel safe for active travel to schools, and for people walking and wheeling while keeping traffic flowing smoothly at low speeds.

4. Our Road to Vision Zero

Proposer	Christopher Francis
Summator	David Smith
Submitted by	10 Party Members

Vision Zero (zero road deaths and serious injury by 2050) can only be achieved by taking proactive measures in key areas of policy, to create a safer and fairer community of road users. Building on the foundations that Liberal Democrat councils have created through programmes of safer streets and safer roads for everyone in your own local communities, we nevertheless need to introduce targeted measures to cover the distance and achieve Vision Zero.

A. A comprehensive strategy to improve training standards will raise driving standards throughout a lifetime of driving. Divesting responsibility for driver education and training from the DVSA, to create a new organisation that trains and employs driving examiners, regulates driving instructors, and oversees the professionalisation of the driving instructors. Existing drivers will be included through linked insurance premium-reduction schemes and obligatory on-line training every ten years upon licence renewal. AI education and training technologies will work with the individual driver and rider profiles to understand how personal behaviour can affect road safety outcomes.

B. To introduce a six-month graduated driving licence scheme, to protect new younger drivers aged 17-23yrs old when driving with younger passengers, and at night, within an obligatory minimum learning period and modular tuition programme.

C. The better management of speed limits on roads that have an inappropriate default National Speed Limit, to be regulated to limits between 30-50mph to improve active travel options, taking a proactive approach to inherent road infrastructure risks from the bottom up. All motorways to be upgraded to regulate, monitor and enforce average speeds with a maximum speed limit of 80mph via a roll-out of Variable Speed Limit technology. All vehicles to be fitted with a speed limiter of 95mph. The integration of ANPR, in-car and AI technologies to monitor and co-ordinate high-risk activities and driver behaviour at high-risk locations.

D. The expansion of licencing and insurance to all forms of propelled machines used on the public road, bringing e-scooters and other motorized two-wheeled vehicles into the existing regulatory framework of ownership required by drivers and vehicle ownership.

E. To increase provision of formal and informal crossing points for pedestrians; requiring local councils to provide enforceable and sufficient formal and informal crossing points, at significant places, and nation-wide to prohibit pedestrians crossing in front of moving traffic.

We have moved a long way towards achieving Vision Zero, but this fundamental goal - zero road deaths and serious injury, a happier and more productive society, £55bn p.a. estimated savings to the economy, can only be accomplished by taking targeted steps to change society for the better.

Conference notes that:

1. Newly qualified drivers are over-represented in KSI (Killed Seriously Injured) statistics. Annually, the population equivalent of Exeter (around 130,00 as reported) are involved in a KSI event. This is obviously unacceptable; and a stark challenge to policy-makers.

2. Existing drivers often are poorly skilled or hold out-of-date knowledge, unless they attend voluntary training or enforced courses such as NDORS or professional training.

3. The DVSA is unable to deliver an effective service whilst part of the civil service so a new organisation will be created, called the Driver And Rider Training Service (DARTS).

4. Northern Ireland's GDL scheme draws upon research from the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL, UK).

5. Tackling Illegal E-Bikes and Dangerous Riding

Proposer Olly Glover

Summator tbc

Submitted by 14 Party Members

Conference notes that:

I. Liberal Democrats champion cycling as a vital tool to improve public health, reduce toxic air pollution, and relieve urban traffic congestion.

II. The Liberal Democrats were the first UK political party to adopt the recommendations of the landmark 'Get Britain Cycling' report as official party policy.

III. The UK e-bike estimated full market size for e-bikes in 2025 was 149,000 units.

IV. While motor vehicles remain by far the greatest cause of death and injury on our roads, public concern is rising over the dangerous misuse of illegally modified or unregulated e-bikes on pavements and in pedestrianised zones.

V. In May 2024, changes to the law via the Criminal Justice Bill established that causing death or serious injury by dangerous or careless cycling is a criminal offence, carrying maximum penalties of up to 14 years in prison.

VI. A proliferation of unregulated, oversized, and illegal e-bikes capable of excessive speeds are posing risks to pedestrians, particularly the elderly, children, and disabled individuals.

VII. These high-speed, illegal e-bikes are increasingly being weaponised by criminal gangs and used to facilitate anti-social behaviour.

VIII. The current regulatory system for e-bikes is confusing, outdated, and seldom enforced, meaning the unrestricted online sale of illegal modification kits and high-power bikes continues entirely unchecked.

Conference believes that:

A. Everyone has the right to feel safe on our streets and pavements, and cyclists must recognise their clear duty of care towards pedestrians and other commuters.

B. Dangerous or criminal riders must not be above the law, and the reputational damage caused by illegal e-bikes risks undermining the broader public case for legal, green active travel.

C. The vast majority of delivery drivers, couriers, and everyday cyclists are law-abiding individuals trying to earn a living or travel sustainably, and they deserve protection from rampant e-bike theft.

D. Enforcement action by the police alone cannot solve this crisis, the government must aggressively tackle the supply chain and unrestricted online marketplaces that flood our streets with illegal vehicles.

E. Multi-million-pound courier and gig-economy platforms must take corporate responsibility for the safety, vehicle legality, and road conduct of the riders operating on their apps.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Implement strict restrictions or bans on the online sale and importation of illegal high-power e-bikes, untethered conversion kits, and oversized electric vehicles that breach standard EAPC safety limits.

2. Overhaul the confusing existing legal framework to provide clear, updated definitions separating legal active travel from high-speed, unregistered light electric vehicles.

3. Provide police forces with updated training to confidently spot, intercept, and confiscate illegally modified bikes, ensuring dangerous cycling laws are robustly enforced.

4. Establish statutory liability standards for gig-economy delivery platforms, legally requiring them to verify that their riders are utilising road-legal vehicles, hold valid insurance, and comply with traffic laws.

5. Deliver a comprehensive nationwide active travel strategy that invests in secure bike infrastructure to combat theft, alongside dedicated cycle paths between key transport links to keep pedestrians and legal cyclists safe.

6. Take steps to enforce compliance of E-Bike and delivery drivers with the highway code.

Work and Pensions Motions

1. A Youth Work Guarantee: Safe Spaces, Skilled Practitioners and Real Opportunities by 2030

Proposer Michael Gregori

Summator Duncan Dunlop

Submitted by 15 Party Members

Conference Notes:

1. High quality youth work improves wellbeing, educational engagement, community safety especially for disadvantaged and rural young people.

2. Funding for open access youth work has declined unevenly across the UK, leaving many communities without safe spaces, detached outreach or consistent mentoring.

3. Young people face pressures, including digital harms, housing insecurity, the cost of living, poor transport connectivity, and limited access to cultural spaces.

4. Workforce shortages, precarious contracts and inconsistent professional development undermine the stability and quality of youth work.

5. Confidence is a superpower that Youth Workers build up in service users to help them overcome the devastating employment crisis being faced

6. The youth unemployment crisis is costing the UK around £125bn a year, which is more than the country spends on education and almost double the defence budget.

7. The Office for National Statistics said the number of people aged between 16 and 24 and not in employment, education or training rose to 1.01 million in the three months from January to March.

Conference Believes:

1. Youth work is an essential educational practice rooted in voluntary participation, relationship building and informal learning, not a peripheral add on to schooling or social care.

2. Every young person should have access to safe, inclusive spaces and trusted adults in their community, regardless of postcode, background or identity.

3. Sustainable, multi year funding and recognised professional standards are prerequisites for effective youth work.

4. Young people must be partners in shaping, delivering and scrutinising services that affect them.

5. Young People are the future and it is our responsibility to give them the best start in life

6. Youth Work builds confident and healthy relationship-building skills. These soft skills cant be replicated by AI. Youth Work is a vital cog in employability going forward.

Conference Calls For:

1. A National Youth Work Guarantee by 2030

o A statutory duty on local authorities to secure open access youth work for 11–19s (up to 25 for SEND and care experienced young people), including centre based, outreach/detached work and targeted projects.

2. Multi Year Funding and Fair Commissioning

o A dedicated Youth Work Investment Fund with three to five year settlements, prioritising underserved rural, coastal and urban communities.

o Commissioning that values outcomes typical of youth work—trusted relationships, progression and participation

3. A Skilled, Supported Workforce

o National Youth Work Workforce Plan: bursaries and apprenticeships for JNC recognised qualifications; protected CPD; portable pensions; and fair pay guidance linked to qualifications/responsibility.

o Strengthened safeguarding and supervision standards, with wellbeing support to reduce burnout and turnover.

4. Inclusion, Access and Safe Travel

o A Youth Mobility Pass for under 19s providing capped off peak bus and rail fares, integrated ticketing, and safe, well lit routes to youth spaces, developed with local transport authorities.

o Inclusive design standards ensuring accessibility, gender informed safety, and cultural/faith appropriate provision.

5. Safe Transitions and Targeted Support

o Guaranteed mentoring and youth work access for care experienced young people, young carers, those at risk of exclusion, and young people in contact with the justice system, with seamless handovers between services at key transition points (primary to secondary, post 16, leaving care).

2. Reforming Child Benefit to Support Young Families

Proposer	Yadu Krishna Valluru
Summator	Miruna Leitiou
Submitted by	10 Party Members

Conference notes that:

1. The current structure of Child Benefit provides a flat-rate monthly payment until a child reaches 16 (or 20 in full-time education), the same amount irrespective of the child's age (Subject to Tax)

2. The financial pressures on families are heavily front-loaded, with the cost of childcare, baby essentials, and career interruptions being highest during a child's first five years.

3. Early years career interruption will have long term impact and as a nation is losing out building a young skill base which means employees in the UK are less competitive on the global stage.

4. The UK is currently facing a declining birth rate, driven in part by young couples delaying having children due to acute early-years financial anxiety.

Conference believes that:

a. The current flat-rate Child Benefit system is a dated policy that fails to reflect the lived financial realities and evolving needs of modern young families.

b. True fairness means targeting financial support when it is most needed, empowering parents to afford expensive early-years childcare so they can remain aspirational at work without being forced to compromise their careers. High Aspirations means high skill which increases household income and living standards which means happy children.

c. Reforming the child benefit to encourage couples to start families sooner will help address the long-term demographic challenges of a falling birth rate.

d. Restructuring this benefit is a cost-neutral basis to the Exchequer when cost is calculated over the childhood of children.

1. Restructure Child Benefit into a tapered "Early-Years Front-Loaded" model, ensuring families receive the highest monthly sum from birth until the child starts primary school.

2. Introduce a gradual reduction in the benefit amount by reducing benefit by 5% per year till age of 12.

3. Establish a flat, lower baseline payment for the remaining years of a child's secondary education until they finish school.

4. Ensure the entire reform package is designed to be revenue-neutral to the government over the lifetime of a child's eligibility, maximizing impact without adding to the fiscal deficit.

3. Unlocking savings, unlocking homes

Proposer	Steve Darling
Summator	Gideon Amos
Submitted by	14 Party Members

Conference notes with concern that:

Renting in retirement is a growing risk for today's young and working-age people: those under 30 are less than half as likely to own their own homes compared with 30 years ago, and among 45 to 54-year-olds, home ownership rates in England dropped by nearly 20% over the last two decades.

An extra one million people are expected to be renting in retirement over the next 20 years - around three times as many as today.

Those renting in retirement are far more financially vulnerable: they are more than twice as likely to be in poverty (37%); and nearly twice as likely to be in debt or be unable to meet an unexpected £200 cost, compared to homeowners.

There are currently an estimated 1.34 million households on local authority housing waiting lists, the highest level in over a decade.

According to Standard Life, a renter will need an extra £400,000 in their pension pot to achieve the same standard of living in retirement as an average homeowner.

Pensioner poverty remains a persistent problem, with 1.9 million retirees living in relative poverty.

Conference believes that:

i. Central to tackling the housing affordability crisis must be a serious drive to increase the supply of affordable and social homes.

ii. Tackling pensioner poverty, and preventing today's workers from renting in retirement, requires a mix of policies, including innovative thinking around retirement savings.

iii. People deserve freedom and choice over their retirement planning, supported by impartial advice and protected by appropriate guardrails.

Conference further notes that:

Saving for a deposit is often the biggest barrier for first-time home buyers.

Many countries successfully give people early access to a portion of their private pension pots to buy their first home, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the US.

Such schemes can encourage young people to save more into their pension, for both a home and retirement.

The Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has indicated that the UK should consider deploying pension savings to support home ownership.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to:

Build 150,000 social homes a year, including council and housing association homes.

Encourage brownfield development through incentives that include affordable and social housing.

Empower local authorities to build social homes and keep them in the social sector.

Give local authorities new powers to control the number and location of second homes and holiday lets.

Conference therefore calls on the Government to:

Work with regulators, consumer and housing groups, and the financial services industry to design a scheme allowing first-time home buyers to use a portion of their Defined Contribution (DC) pension pot toward a mortgage deposit.

Ensure that this scheme goes hand in hand with implementing Liberal Democrat plans to build 150,000 social homes a year.

Put in place the right guardrails, ensuring that the scheme is fair, workable, fosters pension adequacy and guarantees the stability of the pension system - considering for example:

Allowing tax-free access of up to 25% of DC pension pots, up to a maximum cash limit, reflecting that most people take 25% of their final pot as a tax-free lump sum.

Requiring a minimum amount to be left in the pension pot after early withdrawal.

Requiring or incentivising people to top up their pension contributions after accessing early withdrawal, if they earn over a certain amount.

Limiting early withdrawal to voluntary or employee contributions.

Explore equivalent savings schemes to support self-employed workers, and tackle the broader challenge of pension under-saving among the self-employed.

Clearly signpost those interested in the scheme toward free and impartial advice, and offer everyone free and impartial pensions advice at age 40, and five years before retirement.

Business Motions

1. Changes to deselection procedure to improve fairness

Proposer Simon Hughes

Summator David Campanale

Submitted by 11 Party Members

Conference instructs the Party President to bring for debate, amendment and agreement by Federal Conference 2027 revised rules to govern the process of deselection of parliamentary candidates, such revised rules a) to guarantee rights of conscience of parliamentary candidates on grounds of faith or belief and b) to make sure that all reasons for deselection are shared in writing with the candidate(s) affected with at least two weeks for the candidate(s0 to make a written response; that the grounds and response are submitted to members considering deselection at least two weeks before the deselection meeting and the beginning of any voting on deselection, and that the written reasons and response are the only matters allowed to be considered by members deciding whether or not to deselect a PPC.

2. Enquiry into discrimination

Proposer Simon Hughes

Summator David Campanale

Submitted by AO: Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Conference requires the Federal Party President to arrange or to set up by the end of 2026 an inquiry independent of the Liberal Democrats into the discrimination found by English courts to have been committed or permitted by the Liberal Democrats at any level in the party against Rob Flello, Natalie Bird and David Campanale, with a report of the conclusions of the inquiry to the Federal President and the Chief Executive and to the three individuals directly affected by the end of May 2027, and to September 2027 Conference.

3. Matters of conscience

Proposer Simon Hughes

Summator David Campanale

Submitted by AO: Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Conference resolves that the Parliamentary Parties in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords must report annually to Autumn Conference on all matters which in their Standing Orders are protected matters of conscience including those guaranteed in the Federal Party Constitution.

4. Parliamentary Party reports to conference

Proposer Simon Hughes

Summator David Campanale

Submitted by 11 Party Members

Conference resolves that the Parliamentary Parties in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords must report annually to Autumn Conference on all matters which in their Standing Orders are protected matters of conscience including those guaranteed in the Federal Party Constitution.

5. PPC deselection rules

Proposer Simon Hughes

Summator David Campanale

Submitted by AO: Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Conference instructs the Party President to bring for debate, amendment and agreement by Federal Conference 2027 revised rules to govern the process of deselection of parliamentary candidates, such revised rules a) to guarantee rights of conscience of parliamentary candidates on grounds of faith or belief and b) to make sure that all reasons for deselection are shared in writing with the candidate(s) affected with at least two weeks for the candidate(s0 to make a written response; that the grounds and response are submitted to members considering deselection at least two weeks before the deselection meeting and the beginning of any voting on deselection, and that the written reasons and response are the only matters allowed to be considered by members deciding whether or not to deselect a PPC.

6. Urgent enquiry into discrimination

Proposer Simon Hughes

Summator David Campanale

Submitted by 11 Party Members

Conference requires the Federal Party President to arrange or to set up by the end of 2026 an inquiry independent of the Liberal Democrats into the discrimination found by English courts to have been committed or permitted by the Liberal Democrats at any level in the party against Rob Flello, Natalie Bird and David Campanale, with a report of the conclusions of the inquiry to the Federal President and the Chief Executive and to the three individuals directly affected by the end of May 2027, and to September 2027 Conference.

7. Party Strategy - Turning Electoral Breakthrough into Lasting Liberal Strength

Proposer Josh Babarinde

Summator TBC

Submitted by Federal Board

The Liberal Democrats have achieved historic electoral successes since the last party strategy in 2021. We secured the party's best ever General Election result, becoming the largest Liberal force in the House of Commons in a hundred years; secured our longest ever winning streak, with net gains in eight consecutive rounds of local elections; more than doubled our representation at Holyrood, and consolidated our presence in the Senedd. But historic results do not guarantee historic futures. Our task now is to turn electoral breakthrough into lasting liberal strength.

This success is a testament to the dedication of our members, volunteers, candidates, elected representatives, Peers, donors, and staff. Their commitment to community politics, listening to and empowering people and working tirelessly for the communities they serve, remains one of our greatest strengths. The next stage requires us to match that local strength with a clearer national liberal identity and a modern communications operation.

There are also many parts of the country where campaigners have worked with equal dedication but have not yet seen the results their efforts deserve. We recognise their commitment, and we are clear that building strength beyond our existing areas is essential to being a party for the whole of Britain.

Our party is ambitious to go further still, and the party strategy, built with members, is one of the key instruments through which we will fuel those ambitions.

The Federal Board launched a party strategy consultation in 2025 with an initial consultative session, followed in 2026 by consultative workshops and a survey, together generating over 1,500 individual contributions to the party strategy process.

Across that evidence, members gave a clear message: the party must be even more confident in its liberal identity, even clearer in its national message, even stronger in its organisation, and even more disciplined in turning strategy into action.

Conference notes the following findings from the party strategy consultation:

Members overwhelmingly anchor the party's purpose in championing liberal values and individual freedom, fairness, equality and social justice, and representing, serving and listening to communities across the UK.

Members define success primarily in terms of electoral growth and more seats, delivering real policy and societal outcomes, and achieving genuine power and influence in government at all levels, with that growth built from a stable base, particularly in local government.

Members identify the party's greatest opportunities for a competitive advantage as developing a clear national narrative and distinctive messaging; demonstrating honesty, integrity and competence; and being a credible, liberal alternative to populism and nationalism.

Members believe that the party’s greatest need is to communicate a clear identity through distinctive messaging, especially given the fast rise of Reform and the Green Party, and the resilience of Labour, the Conservatives, the SNP and Plaid Cymru.

Members believe that the party’s electoral appeal should be firmly grounded in liberalism. The problem is not our values, but our failure to communicate them clearly, practically and emotionally. Well-communicated liberalism is the strongest electoral offer available to us and to the country.

Members believe that how we engage with other parties must start from our liberal distinctiveness, be judged issue by issue, and proceed only from a position of strength, with clearly defined limits and full transparency with members, volunteers, elected representatives and Peers. Preserving our identity is non-negotiable. Members overwhelmingly reject pre-election pacts, and believe that post-election local arrangements should remain a matter for local stakeholders, reflecting a core tenet of liberalism.

Members identify investment in communications, media and messaging, especially social and digital media capability, alongside investment in volunteers, volunteers and grassroots capacity, as urgent strategic priorities rather than optional organisational improvements.

Conference reaffirms that the Liberal Democrats' purpose is to build a liberal society in which every individual has the freedom to live the life they choose, supported by strong public services, a fair economy, and a democracy that genuinely works for everyone, ensuring no-one is enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

Conference therefore agrees the following party strategy for the Liberal Democrats, rooted in confident liberalism, disciplined campaigning, modern communications, reaching out to all communities in our country, and a determination to win power to change lives:

Our aims are to:

Secure the election of as many Liberal Democrats as possible at local, devolved, and Westminster levels, so that we can exercise power, deliver liberal policy outcomes, and build a fairer, freer and more democratic Britain.

Support party organisations in Scotland, Wales and England in maximising their success in Westminster, devolved and local elections to deliver on their respective manifestos.

Become the largest party in local government in England, and one of the two largest parties in local government across the United Kingdom, by investing in year-round local campaigning, candidate development, council group support, regional capacity, and the structures needed to fight new unitary and large-area elections effectively.

Remove from power any local, devolved or Westminster government that threatens liberal democracy, and work towards a Britain in which the Liberal Democrats are a party of government. This includes stopping Reform UK and the far right from being in power at any level, while building a positive liberal alternative to the politics of nationalism, authoritarianism, grievance and division.

Expand our electoral coalition beyond our current base at any given layer of government, with a particular focus on wards, divisions, constituencies and electoral regions in the North, Midlands, Wales and urban Britain.

Deliver a strategy rooted in our core liberal values, including individual freedom, fairness, opportunity, equality, internationalism, democratic reform, and care for our environment.

Build a modern party that reflects the diversity of the society that we are ambitious to represent, with particular focus on reaching communities currently underrepresented among our members, volunteers, elected representatives and Peers.

Grow our membership, activist and candidate base, especially among younger people and underrepresented communities, so that the party has the people, skills and energy needed to campaign, win and govern in every part of Britain.

We will achieve these aims most effectively by:

Developing a compelling, clear and distinctive national narrative, grounded in liberal values, that has emotional as well as rational appeal, and that clearly and visibly differentiates the Liberal Democrats from other parties, particularly those with populist and nationalist tendencies.

Resisting the politics of nationalism, authoritarianism, division and grievance, wherever they arise, and offering instead liberal politics rooted in freedom, fairness, internationalism, hope and respect for every individual.

Maintaining a strong tradition of community politics and ground game of relentless door-knocking and literature distribution, while recognising that building stronger national messaging alongside a professional social media and digital operation is no longer optional but essential to reaching new communities of voters.

Consolidating where we are stronger, so that they can enhance their electoral sustainability, and so that volunteers from those ‘fortresses’ are more sustainably able to offer support to developing seats.

Working with liberals across Europe and the world to defend pluralism, the rule of law, and the open, internationalist values on which our future prosperity and security depend.

Our top priorities to help us fight and win elections - and win office - will be:

Building a clear, simple and emotionally resonant national identity for the party, ensuring that voters and internal Liberal Democrat stakeholders feel confident answering the question of what the Liberal Democrats stand for, and that our message is consistent, repeatable and distinctive.

Investing significantly in digital and social media capability, treating it as a strategic priority equivalent to our ground game, through:

Building a significantly larger and more effective social media team at Liberal Democrat HQ.

Developing high-quality video content and a presence on platforms that better enable us to reach younger voters, transient populations and those who can be difficult to access through our traditional ground game.

Training and supporting local volunteers and candidates to use digital tools effectively, extending our ground game strengths into new channels.

Renewing and strengthening our grassroots capacity, recognising members, volunteers, volunteers, candidates and local parties as essential electoral infrastructure, by:

Recruiting and retaining members, volunteers, volunteers, candidates, donors and staff, especially from underrepresented communities, and giving them a rewarding experience of the party beyond election periods.

Selecting candidates for elections at the earliest possible opportunity, and ensuring they have access to training, mentoring, and campaign support they need to succeed.

Supporting developing local parties with the resources, expertise, staff support and shared tools they need to grow.

Investing in training that teaches first principles as well as practical tools, so campaigners can adapt to a volatile, multi-party environment.

Prioritising a recruitment drive for younger members, volunteers and candidates, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, with clear paths into training, responsibility, decision-making and public office.

Removing unnecessary administrative barriers to action across the party, enabling members, volunteers, candidates, elected representatives, Peers, donors and staff to deliver their part in fulfilling the party's objectives.

Spotting and supporting local talent early, with active succession planning and team-building so that local parties do not become over-dependent on one or two key individuals.

Taking our efforts to promote diversity to a higher level, with an ambition to reflect all parts of the society we seek to represent, at every level of the party and public office. This will involve:

Implementing the recommendations of the 2024 General Election review on gender equality, racial equality, disability equality, LGBTQ+ equality, and the representation of young people.

Completing implementations of the diversity recommendations from the Thornhill and Alderdice reviews, particularly those relating to racial equality and diversity.

Investing in socioeconomic diversity, so that working-class Liberal Democrat talent can thrive at every level of the party.

Striving for gender parity among Liberal Democrats at every level of government.

Reaching out to underrepresented communities, recognising that community politics must mean listening to, empowering and engaging with all communities, not only those we have been most successful at reaching to date.

Continuing to build a sustainable and diversified financial base for the party, with a fundraising narrative that appeals to existing and new party donors with a compelling, clear and distinctive national message.

F. Investing further in information technology, data, and campaign systems that are reliable, user-friendly and designed around the needs of campaigners, enabling better targeting, easier collaboration, stronger digital campaigning and more effective use of member and voter data.

To support the delivery of these priorities, we will also:

Providing members and volunteers with an excellent experience of the party, recognising that a growing, motivated and diverse membership is essential to our electoral success, including by:

Recognising that the experience of members, volunteers and volunteers differs greatly depending on where they live, the strength and capacity of their local party, and the support available from regional, state and federal party bodies, and ensuring that parties receive the differing levels of support they need to improve that experience.

Providing opportunities for members to develop and promote liberal political priorities locally and nationally.

Supporting members to stand for election to public bodies

Providing high-quality training, mentoring and development opportunities to help members, volunteers and candidates build the skills needed to support the party's objectives.

Supporting members to work with others who share their interests, including through party bodies, Affiliated Organisations and other groupings.

Reducing barriers to participation within the party, including participating in roles within the party, policy-making and Federal Conference.

Modernising the member experience, so that all are welcomed, valued, retained and offered meaningful opportunities to contribute beyond election periods.

Ensuring the complaints system is fair, proportionate, timely, confidential where appropriate, while maintaining the integrity and independence of individual processes.

Ensuring that this strategy is implemented effectively by:

Engaging members, volunteers, elected representatives, Peers, donors and staff as partners in delivering this strategy, communicating trade-offs honestly, and ensuring ownership is shared at every level of the party.

Embedding the strategy across the party, through state, regional and local structures, and with parliamentarians, candidates and councillors, and using internal communications.

Reporting back to Federal Conference on progress against this strategy, including delivery against agreed measurable milestones, key areas of progress, areas where further action is required, and any proposed changes to the strategy.

Further developing our "one party" approach and culture, so that every part of the Liberal Democrat family, including members, volunteers, candidates, councillors, parliamentarians, directly elected mayors, staff, state parties, regional parties, local parties, Affiliated Organisations, and donors, works together to achieve our shared objectives.

Continuing to make progress on measuring, reducing and offsetting carbon emissions that arise from party operations, towards the aim of eventually operating at net zero emissions, and embedding sustainability in the way we run our party.

8. Tax Reform for a Fair & Secure Britain

Proposer Cheney Payne

Summator Jamie Dalzell

Submitted by Cambridge City Liberal Democrats

MOTION: TAX REFORM FOR A FAIR AND SECURE BRITAIN

Submitted by Cambridge Local Party

Conference notes that:

1. The UK tax system has evolved piecemeal over decades and now fails basic tests of fairness, efficiency and simplicity — penalising work and enterprise while undertaxing passive wealth and unearned income.

2. Widening wealth inequality, stagnating living standards for working people, and an urgent increase in defence spending requirements together demand a comprehensive and principled reassessment of how public revenue is raised.

3. There is broad expert consensus — from the IFS, the Resolution Foundation, the Wealth Tax Commission and others — that reform of capital gains, inheritance, property and wealth taxation is both necessary and achievable.

4. The Liberal Democrat manifesto For a Fair Deal (2024) did not include comprehensive tax reform proposals, and the subsequent policy paper A Thriving Economy does not address taxation and inequality.

5. Liberal Democrats have a distinctive tradition of tax reform rooted in liberal values: rewarding contribution, dispersing economic power, and ensuring that wealth does not entrench privilege across generations.

Conference believes that:

1. A credible Liberal Democrat programme for government must include a fully costed, progressive tax platform that can fund public services — including the defence investment Britain now requires — without placing disproportionate burden on working people and small businesses.

2. Tax reform should be guided by liberal principles: incentivising work and enterprise, reducing the tax advantages of passive wealth accumulation, simplifying a system that currently serves those who can afford specialist advice, and fostering opportunity, while standing alongside the most vulnerable.

Conference resolves to instruct the Federal Policy Committee to:

1. Establish a Tax Reform Working Group with a mandate to develop comprehensive proposals for tax reform for consideration at a future conference during this parliament, drawing on members with relevant expertise including tax professionals, economists and those with experience in local and national government.

2. Ensure the Working Group specifically examines:

o The taxation of passive wealth, including capital gains and unearned income, relative to earned income

o Reform of property taxation, including more progressive council tax or its replacement

o Incentives for work and enterprise

o The needs of small and medium sized enterprises

o The relationship between tax reform and funding requirements for defence, public services and net zero investment

o International competitiveness and reality check on potential capital flight

3. Report back with developed proposals during the current parliament, so as to contribute to a fair and costed election manifesto.

9. Taxation policy working group business motion

Proposer To be announced

Summator To be announced TBA

Submitted by Basingstoke & Deane

Conference believes that:

Conference should make our taxation policy not our spokespersons who have announced new policy without bringing them to Federal Conference such as a tax on share buy backs, doubling the Remote Gaming Duty, increasing the Digital Services Tax, and the windfall tax on banks.

Conference notes that:

A. In our 2019 manifesto we proposed nearly £63 billion of increased government current spending a year, but in our 2024 manifesto we only set out £27 billion of increased current spending;

B. By 2023 we have had policies to invest £150 billion on green policies and £50 billion regional investment, but in our 2024 manifesto we state we would only invest an additional £19.7 billion a year on average over the next Parliament

C. The last time it discussed taxation policy was in 2018 – F26: Taxing Land, Not Investment [on a Commercial Landowner Levy (CLL)] and F34: Promoting a Fairer Distribution of Wealth [equalising the tax treatment of income from wealth and income from work];

D. In August 2021 in Consultation Paper 145B on a UBI we set how we could pay for the UBI by 're-allocating the 3 percent corporation tax rise (worth around £10 billion) and capital gains tax reforms (worth around £5.6 billion) already in the Liberal Democrats' 2019 manifesto, and additionally eliminating capital gains tax uprating at death (worth around £1.2 billion) and reducing pension relief to the basic rate of tax (worth around £13 billion). This progressive package of tax rises would ensure those with the broadest shoulders covered the relevant gap in funding.'

E. Richard Murphy tax on share buy backs, doubling the Remote Gaming Duty, increasing the Digital Services Tax, and the windfall tax on banks has set out how over £100 billion can be raised by the government;

F. Margaret Hodge in the House of Commons claimed on 25th November 2023 that there are 100 tax reliefs which could raise £195 billion if scrapped.

G. We should include in our next General Election Manifesto increased revenue from taxation well above that in our 2024 Manifesto.

Conference therefore calls for the Federal Policy Committee to set up a Working Group on Taxation Policy to bring its Policy Paper and Motion to Conference by autumn 2028.

Note:

This is a business motion not a policy motion and so has no new policies in it. It just calls for a Working Group to be set up on Taxation Policy. Hopefully, speakers during the debate will make some suggestions for the Working Group to consider.

10. Rebuilding Liberal Links with Trade Unions and Working People

Proposer Sal Aziz
Summator Kevin Daws
Submitted by ALDTU and 16 Members

Conference notes that:

i. Trade unions are voluntary associations through which working people organise collectively, exercise workplace voice, and defend their rights, dignity and interests at work.

ii. Liberalism has a proud history of supporting freedom of association, mutual aid, co-operation, workplace democracy and the dispersal of power in society and the economy.

iii. The Liberal Party was once an early parliamentary home for many organised workers and trade unionists, including Lib-Lab MPs who took the Liberal whip while representing labour and trade union interests.

iv. Liberal governments played an important role in the development of trade union rights, including the Trade Disputes Act 1906, which restored vital legal protections for unions after the Taff Vale judgment.

v. Trade unions may operate political funds and affiliate to political parties, but many trade union members support parties other than Labour or no party at all.

vi. Recent debates within major trade unions, including Unite's consultation and CWU conference motions on their relationships with the Labour Party, show that many trade unionists are reassessing how their political voice should be represented.

Conference believes that:

a. Trade unions are an important part of a free, democratic and plural society.

b. No political party should assume automatic ownership of the trade union movement.

c. Trade union political independence means democratic member control over whether to affiliate to, fund, campaign for, criticise or work with any political party.

d. The Liberal Democrats should be a natural home for trade unionists who believe in liberty, democracy, internationalism, equality, decentralisation, environmental sustainability and workplace rights.

e. The party should draw on the experience of Liberal Democrat trade unionists, including those active in the Association of Liberal Democrat Trade Unionists (ALDTU), when rebuilding engagement with organised workers and the wider trade union movement.

Conference calls for:

1. The Liberal Democrats to adopt a positive strategy of engagement with trade unions, including dialogue with national unions, local branches, workplace representatives and union members.

2. Liberal Democrat parliamentarians, councillors and candidates to engage constructively with trade unions on pay, conditions, public services, skills, industrial strategy and workplace rights.

3. The party to support the rights of workers to join a trade union, organise collectively, seek recognition, bargain collectively and take lawful industrial action.

4. The party to campaign for stronger workplace democracy, including better consultation with workers, protection for union representatives and fair access for unions in workplaces.

5. The party to support reforms ensuring union processes, including internal elections, union political funds, affiliations and party-political campaigning are transparent, democratic and accountable to members.

6. The party to welcome and support trade unions that choose, through democratic decision-making, to review their political affiliations, adopt a politically independent stance, support Liberal Democrat candidates or campaigns, or affiliate to the Liberal Democrats.

7. The party to encourage Liberal Democrat members, where appropriate, to join and participate constructively in trade unions, including by contributing to union democracy and promoting liberal values and Liberal Democrat policies.

8. Liberal Democrat parliamentarians and spokespeople to engage with trade unions, workers, employers and Liberal Democrat trade unionists, including those active in ALDTU, in developing a liberal response to the Government's approach to trade unions, workers' rights, public services, workplace democracy and industrial relations.

Constitutional Amendments

1. Rights of conscience

Proposer Simon Hughes Hughes

Summator David Campanale

Submitted by AO: Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

In Article 13.5. b. after ‘application' insert ‘, including the guarantee of all candidates' right to vote according to their conscience on matters of faith or belief including but not limited to the death penalty, abortion, matters of termination of adult life, and definitions of sex, man and woman, and other matters added by future majority votes at party conference’ ;

In Article 19.2 at end add

‘Each State Candidates Committee shall also ensure the rights of all candidates to vote according to their conscience on matters of faith or belief including but not limited to the death penalty, abortion, matters of termination of adult life, and definitions of sex, man and woman, and other matters added by future majority votes at party conference.