



GENERAL ELECTION 2017

THE LIBERAL PARTY MANIFESTO

TRUSTING THE PEOPLE



INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to be writing the introduction to this manifesto, through it I hope you will come to understand more about the Liberal Party's vision and beliefs, and that you will feel able to support Liberal Party Candidates.

It is an old principle of Liberalism that governments should 'trust the people'. The European Referendum result and how we go about leaving the EU is plainly one of the principle issues in this General Election. The Liberal Party does not want to re-fight old battles and open-up old wounds. We believe that the nation needs to come together, with everyone working towards making "Brexit" a success. Some parties will peddle the line that those who voted to leave the EU were too old or too stupid to have their votes count. The Liberal Party acknowledges that the people have spoken - now is the time to trust the people!

Trust in the people goes way beyond our future outside of the EU. We want to allow people to keep as much of their earned income as possible, trusting them that they know what is best for themselves and their families. We are campaigning for a system of Universal Inheritance - trusting people to use it to give them the best start to their adult life.

The Liberal Party believes in increased training and vocational education, trusting the British people have the skills necessary to take the Country forward.

I hope you find this manifesto informative and I trust we can win your support!

Cllr STEVE RADFORD
President of the Liberal Party

KEY LIBERAL PARTY POLICIES

- Respect the EU Referendum result and work towards making 'Brexit' a success.
- Guarantee the rights of EU citizens already working in the UK, thereby ensuring that key skills stay in the UK economy.
- Increase skills training and vocational education so that the UK is less dependent on immigration for skilled workers.
- Encourage growth by reducing the huge regulatory and bureaucratic burdens on the small business sector.
- Simplify the tax system by raising personal allowances, taking more of the low paid out of taxation altogether and allowing those who are moderately paid to keep more of their earned income.
- Radical reform of inheritance tax. Reduce the level of taxation but abolish the extensive exemptions and allowances which mean the wealthiest pay little by way of inheritance tax. Provide for a 'Universal Inheritance' to give everyone a tax free lump sum at the age of 25, alternatively it is used to pay university tuition fees or towards a business start - up.
- Increase defence spending to pre-2010 levels to increase the manpower and equipment of UK forces, especially the Royal Navy. British forces deserve the best. This can be funded by scrapping Britain's nuclear weapons immediately.
- Encourage local authorities to build and maintain more affordable homes for rent and give them greater powers to combat derelict houses and waste land sites.

BRITAIN AND BREXIT

Liberals call for the referendum vote to be respected and for all to work to make Brexit a success.

We would guarantee the rights of EU nationals already working in the UK. These workers need a degree of certainty in their lives and the UK would benefit from their skills remaining in the British economy.

We want to see as free access to the EU Single Market as is possible, but within the context of the UK negotiating trade deals with the other countries of the world as well.

We want to see a fairer deal for countries of the Commonwealth, both in terms of immigration and trade.

TAXATION

Liberals want to see a simplified tax system which allows the low paid and moderately paid to keep as much of their earned income as possible.

We would increase the tax free personal allowance to £15,000 giving people a real incentive to work and further reducing the dependence on benefits and tax credits.

We propose radical reform of the inheritance tax system. We would reduce the rate of inheritance tax to 10% but would abolish the large number of allowances and exemptions which allow the very wealthy to pay little or no inheritance tax. This would be used to provide a tax free lump sum to every UK citizen at the age of 25, or alternatively it can be used to pay university tuition fees or provide money for a business start-up.

EDUCATION

We want to create a country which is proud of its state education system. We want to see proper state school provision where the most able are stretched and challenge in order that they develop to their maximum ability, but equally no child should be considered a failure or 'left behind' all children should be encouraged to aspire to achieve their very best and fulfil their maximum potential. To this end we would seek to ensure all teachers are well trained, well qualified and well-motivated to educate and train our young people.

We do not want to see any more grammar schools and we would end the waste of public money which has occurred in funding 'free schools'. We want all children to be given every opportunity to succeed.

We would pay university tuition fees out of general taxation (subject to the student not then receiving a universal inheritance).

We would plough investment into skills training and vocational education so that the UK is equipped to develop a high tech - high skills economy. To this end we will seek to foster a culture where vocational training is seen to be given the same status and esteem as purely academic qualifications. The more skills we have within the UK population the less dependent we will be on immigration.

These reforms would be partly funded by applying VAT to 'private' school fees.

DEFENCE

The Liberal Party believes that the UK's armed forces have been cut to levels which are no longer consistent with national defence and our international obligations.

We therefore want to see the UK return to the equivalent of our pre-2010 defence spending to increase both the number of service personnel and the quality of their equipment. Defence cuts have had a disastrous effect on the morale and effectiveness of all three services, but especially the Royal Navy which now operates only 19 major surface ships, of which the 6 Type-45 destroyers are beset by propulsion problems.

In short, we believe that British forces deserve the best equipment available.

This proposed increase in funding could be financed on a long-term basis by scrapping the UK's nuclear weapons immediately.

BUSINESS

We would encourage small business start-ups by making money from a 'Universal Inheritance' available before the age of 25 for those who wanted to start their own business.

Liberals want to set small businesses free by abolishing the huge bureaucratic and regulatory burdens placed on small businesses.

We would waive business rates/land value tax for the first year of any new small business.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Liberal Party would encourage (through planning and tax incentives amongst other measures) local authorities to build and maintain more affordable homes for rent.

We would give local authorities more powers to deal with derelict properties and waste land sites.

We would abolish Council Tax and Business Rates and introduce a system of Land Value Taxation.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The Liberal Party would end 'fracking' now! We believe that the risks of fracking are not yet fully researched or understood and the potential for damage to the environment is enormous.

We believe that still further reductions can be made in the amount of 'landfill' waste by making greater use of local authority administered recycling schemes.

We call for greater investment in environmentally friendly technology and sustainable energy generation. We want Britain to become a world leader in sustainable and renewable technology.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Liberals would help save money within the NHS in the long term by greatly increasing public health promotion, particularly by local councils.

We would restore democratic accountability to NHS supervision 'watchdogs'.

The Liberal Party also calls for the abolition of social care charges for disabled people.

We would increase the lower threshold at which the elderly are required to pay for social care to £20,000 in capital and savings by 2020.

These reforms would be partly financed by abolishing the VAT exemption on private medical fees.

THE LIBERAL PARTY

Further details of our policies can be seen at: www.liberal.org.uk.

Please remember that Liberal Party policy is decided by its members at our annual Assembly and at various Special Assemblies which are held throughout the year.

We are not funded by big business or the Trade Unions, so we have no vested interests and our only loyalty is to YOU - THE VOTERS!

We do not impose a system of whipping on our members and councillors, nor do we require them to 'toe the party line', so they are free to represent YOU and act in YOUR best interests.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Manifesto - we trust that having read it, we can rely on your support!

JOIN OUR JOURNEY

For more information, to join the Liberal Party, or to donate, please visit: www.liberal.org.uk...

...or you can write to us at:

The Liberal Party,
38 Horsfield Way,
Dunnington,
York,
YO19 5RH

Your Name

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I would like to (Please tick):

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“The Liberal Party exists to create a liberal society, in which every citizen shall possess liberty, property and security, and none shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. Its chief care is for the rights and opportunities of the individual, and in all spheres, it sets freedom first.”

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