

# 131<sup>st</sup> LIBERAL PARTY ASSEMBLY - DECISIONS

## SESSION ONE

### MOTION ONE - EUROPEAN UNION / BREXIT (CARRIED)

1. Assembly welcomes the result of the Referendum on 23rd June 2016, in which the
2. British people voted to leave the European Union.
  
3. Now that the UK is freeing itself from the straightjacket of EU membership and re-
4. entering the real world, assembly calls on the UK government to take up the torch
5. and promote free and fair trade, democracy and liberty for which the UK was once famous.
  
6. Assembly calls for the UK to actively promote these principles through its
7. membership of the Commonwealth, thereby improving the economic, democratic
8. and cultural wellbeing of developing nations.

### MOTION TWO - EUROPEAN UNION / BREXIT (CARRIED)

1. Following the vote to leave the European Union the Liberal Party calls for:
2. a. the democratic decision taken in the referendum to be respected by all;
3. b. the UK government to take the necessary steps to ensure that prior to the 4.
4. triggering of the article 50 procedure there are sufficient trade negotiators
5. such that the UK is fully prepared for the subsequent negotiations;
6. c. the UK government to continue to pursue goals of international co-operation
7. and friendship amongst nations;

### MOTION THREE - EUROPEAN UNION / BREXIT (CARRIED)

3. Assembly condemns any ill treatment, prejudice or abuse directed to any resident
4. in the UK.
  
5. Assembly supports the continued residence (on the same terms as during membership) of
6. all EU nationals currently lawfully resident in the UK.

## **SESSION TWO**

### **MOTION ONE – UTILITIES REGULATION (REFFERED BACK)**

### **MOTION TWO - PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND AND WALES (CARRIED)**

1. Scotland and Northern Ireland already use the Single Transferable Vote in multi-
2. member constituencies (the 'STV system' of proportional representation) to elect
3. councillors and it has been the policy of the Liberal Party that this should be
4. extended to the rest of the UK.
  
5. Following discussions within the Independent Group of the Local Government
6. Association we believe that consideration of other options in addition to STV have
7. merit and that each Local Authority should be able to choose, in co-operation with
8. the Boundary Commission, the most appropriate system for their needs and then
9. have these proposals put to local electors in a referendum. We suggest such
10. options should be:-
11. i. STV in multi member wards;
12. ii. STV in multi member wards with provision for the Alternative Vote in single
13. member wards where population density or community size make those
14. desirable;
15. iii. the additional member system with single member wards electing using AV
16. and top - up lists using Proportional Representation with these additional
17. members representing regions of the Local Authority made up of groups of
18. the single member wards.

## **SESSION THREE**

### **BUSINESS SESSION - LIBERAL CLUBS (CARRIED)**

1. The Cornish Liberal Party calls upon the Liberal Party nationally to set up a
2. committee to devise a national policy for new Liberal Halls and Liberal Clubs to
3. highlight the continued existence of the Liberal Party.

4. This committee is to work closely with the Cornish Liberal Party which is currently
5. involved with the purchase and operation of a Liberal Hall in Camborne, Cornwall,
6. with the possibility of a Liberal Club elsewhere in Cornwall.

#### **SESSION FOUR**

##### **MOTION ONE - UNOCCUPIED PROPERTIES (CARRIED)**

1. Domestic properties (including those that are located above retail premises) that
2. have been unoccupied for more than one-year will automatically become liable for
3. payment of at least double the relevant level of council tax as determined locally. Once the
4. said property has then been occupied for a minimum of one-year, the owner of the property
5. shall be able to claim a rebate (at a level to be decided) on the council tax paid prior to the
6. property becoming occupied.
  
7. Further, assembly calls for financial assistance should be provided to
8. landlords (paid for via funds raised in the above proposal) who own unoccupied
9. residential properties that require works to bring them up to a suitable standard for
10. letting, in order to increase available accommodation for those most in need.

##### **MOTION TWO**

##### **GRAMMAR SCHOOLS AND SELECTIVE EDUCATION (CARRIED)**

1. The Liberal Party would generally welcome choice and diversity in any sector,
2. however, the Liberal Party views with dismay the government's proposal to increase
3. the number of grammar schools.
  
4. We believe that such an increase would not provide an 'opportunity for all' but rather
5. an increased opportunity for those people wealthy enough to pay for their child to
6. be tutored to pass the relevant '11 plus' or entrance examination.

7. Rather than increase the number of grammar schools the Liberal Party calls for an
8. increased investment in existing schools to ensure that children of all abilities are
9. engaged, challenged and developed so that each can achieve at the highest level
10. of their ability.

11. Further the Liberal Party calls for a culture of 'parity of esteem' between vocational
12. and academic education to be fostered and promoted.

## **SESSION FIVE**

### **AGRICULTURE - MOTION ONE (WITHDRAWN)**

### **AGRICULTURE - MOTION TWO (CARRIED)**

1. Assembly is concerned at the apparent lack of interest of the UK government in the rural
2. economy and in biodiversity and stewardship of the environment in particular.
  
3. As a basis and simple step the Liberal Party would encourage pastoral farm
4. diversity and biodiversity in general by providing tax incentives for those who breed
5. and rear (for market) 'rare breeds' as per the Rare Breeds Survival Trust list.
  
6. To investigate opportunity and need for identifying uneconomic land to encourage natural
7. regeneration (re-wilding).

### **AGRICULTURE - MOTION THREE (CARRIED)**

1. The Liberal Party calls for a broad based, multi-disciplinary inquiry into the structure,
2. payment and subsidy of farming in England.
  
3. In particular the we would like to see the Competition and Markets Authority
4. investigate the role of large agricultural wholesalers and any potential abuse of
5. market dominance.

6. Further there should be detailed report on the current payments made to those in
  7. the agricultural sector by the European Union and how any such future subsidy or
  8. other payments could be made in a more targeted and efficient manner, specifically
  9. tailored to the meet the needs of farming and citizens in the UK.
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10. Until such an inquiry has reported and its recommendations begun to be
  11. implemented, the Liberal Party calls on the UK government to maintain payments to
  12. farmers, 'post-Brexit', at the same level and on the same basis as the EU
  13. currently does up to a maximum of the benefits cap.

## **TOPICAL MOTIONS**

### **MOTION ONE – NHS (PASSED)**

While the recent announcement by the secretary of state of 1,500 extra medical school places is welcome it is a modest but inadequate step in the right direction.

We note over a quarter of current NHS doctors are from overseas, therefore the extra places will not in themselves produce a self-sufficient UK medical workforce and we will still need our overseas doctors.

We fear the political posturing by the Government is counter-productive in retaining the service of overseas doctors.

Liberals note that medical professions are now an international market and that the UN has noted there is a worldwide crisis in shortage of doctors.

We urge the UK to play a leading role in vastly increasing the training provision for doctors and nursing staff as a way to improve both the UK and World-wide medical staff shortages.

We note University hospitals play a major role in medical research and this is key growth industry for the UK economy.