

# **133<sup>rd</sup> Liberal Party Assembly.**

The Civil Service Club, Great Scotland Yard, Westminster, London, SW1A 2HJ.

## **Programme of Events.**

### **Morning Session**

**9.30-10.00**            **Registration**

**10.00-10.15**            **Welcome: Cllr Steve Radford, President of the Liberal Party.**

**10.15-11.30**            **Session One: Motions**

Liberal Party's Political Position.

Divided Communities.

Transport Governance Reform.

**11.30-11.45**            **Mid Morning Break.**

**11.45-13.00**            **Session Two: Motions**

Common Good Capitalism.

Liberal Party Statement on Freedom of Speech in Political Debate.

Apprenticeship Levy.

**13.00-14.00**            **Luncheon**

**14.00-15.45**            **Afternoon Session.**

Party Business. **Session only open to Party Members.**

### **Motions**

Constitutional Reform.

Home Solar Energy.

Education in English Cities.

**15.45-16.00**            **Afternoon Break**

**16.00- 17.00**            **Final Session.**

Motion: Brexit Implementation.

AOB.

Farewell Address & Party Appeal.

**Assembly to be followed by a National Executive Committee meeting.**

**Liberal Party's Political Position.** Proposer, Dominic Allaway & Roger Jenking.

1 The Liberal Party agrees that the other political parties have been 'captured' by people from a very  
2 narrow socioeconomic background, namely the upper middle class. Consequently there is no longer  
3 A Party that is acting as a vehicle for normal working people to enter politics. We agree that for the  
4 sake of harmony in the country the Liberal Party can and must be that vehicle.

**Amendment Proposed by the Liverpool Liberal Party :** Replace all with.

1 The Liberal Party is concerned that people from different socio economic backgrounds have access  
2 to join the political process,  
3 To advance this goal we call for  
4 1) Greater education in politics and economics at schools  
5 2) Support for political and economic education through Adult Education and voluntary groups  
6 like Workers Educational Association  
7 3) Government support for political parties by a tax option opt in facility by tax payers as operated  
8 in Germany whereby every tax payer can indicate a modest sum like £1 be donated to a registered  
9 political party of their choice. This last measure would reduce dependence of political parties on big  
10 business and wealthy benefactors and encourage them reach out to broader public.  
11 4) The Electoral Commission financially support by consent some constituency / ward parties trail  
12 primary elections by supporters of party to nominate their candidate as a pilot to see if this  
13 maximise public engagement.  
14 5) The Liberal Party urges all our councillors to promote student placement / mentoring schemes.

**Divided Communities.** Proposer, Dominic Allaway & Roger Jenking.

1 The Liberal Party agrees that it is against segregation of communities on religious or racial lines. As  
2 such it calls for proactive integration in the form of breaking down segregation by allocating  
3 housing and schools in such a way that it integrates people from different racial and religious  
4 backgrounds.

**Amendment Proposed by the Liverpool Liberal Party.** Replace all with.

1 The Liberal Party is concerned we learn and act upon to prevent the divisive and sectarian nature of  
2 riots in both Northern Ireland and more recently Oldham.

3 The Liberal Party urges the development of community schools and religious schools where more  
4 than one faith or denomination is brought together in the management and ethos of the school

5 We wish to encourage that across local authority areas initiatives to encourage mutual respect of  
6 different cultures and faiths is done by consent and that multi culturalism is not used as an excuse  
7 to repress different faiths and traditions or deny parental choice

**Transport Governance Reform.** Proposer, Mark Page & Stephen Graham.

1 The formation of competent Transport committees that work with local and national Government,  
2 transport companies and Environmental Health. The committee has to focus on 'Green issues'; such  
3 as reducing the amount of Double Decker Buses 'roaming' around our Cities and Towns. Often we  
4 see Buses frequently operating on various routes with very few people on them. Why can't  
5 companies use the smaller shuttle Buses for routes where the custom is less or during known quiet  
6 periods of the day.

**Common Good Capitalism.** Proposed by Dominic Allaway, Roger Jenking & Dane Clouston.

1 'The Liberal Party recognises the freedom and prosperity capitalism creates but also recognises that  
2 our economic system has been 'captured' by the extremely rich and monopolies. As such we propose  
3 a new type of capitalism to benefit all citizens which we call 'Common Good Capitalism.'

4 'Common Good Capitalism would include positive redistribution of the inheritance of wealth in  
5 each new generation by means of a £10,000 UK Citizens Inheritance at 25, as recently proposed by  
6 the Institute of Public Policy Research and the Resolution Foundation, financed by, and subject to, a  
7 progressive tax on beneficiaries cumulative total lifetime receipt of all capital gifts and inheritance,  
8 in tandem with the current so-called 'Inheritance Tax' on giving and bequeathing but without its  
9 unlimited exemptions and with its rate reduced from 40% to 10% except for giving to non-UK tax  
10 payers.

## **Liberal Party Statement on Freedom of Speech in Political Debate:**

Proposers, Paul Bradshaw and Ray Whittenger.

### **Foreword:**

1 It's a difficult subject area but one we as Liberals should feel willing and obliged to address if we  
2 hope to represent the values of traditional Liberalism. As a difficult subject, discussion, debate and  
3 refinement of the text is welcome and essential in deriving a final statement ready for publication.

4 The Liberal Party condemns the unfair lobbying that is being exercised to force political  
5 organisations to abandon the hard won right of freedom of speech and expression as contained in  
6 the European Convention on Human Rights article 10 and the Universal Declaration of Human  
7 Rights, 1948.

8 It should be the United Kingdoms intention to prevent nations such as Russia, Israel, Iran, etcetera  
9 from influencing our national affairs.

10 We are sad that some members of the Jewish community, whether for and against Zionism, have  
11 been compromised by abuse.

12 We support the UN Declaration of Human Rights Article 18, that everyone has the right to freedom  
13 of thought, conscience and religion. We extend this wish to Jews, Muslims, Christians and any other  
14 faith as long as their behaviour is reciprocated towards each other.

15 The media's inability to be fair, to act responsibly and fulfil their responsibilities recently is deeply  
16 regretted. Bias, incitement and intimidation is not in the best interests of society.

17 We the Liberal Party urge the media to allow free and open discussions by qualified persons not  
18 seeking personal advantage. There is a great national deficit in understanding of minorities. We are  
19 also deeply concerned that politicians and political supporters are openly causing divisions against  
20 the interest of the People, the Nation and peace within the Nation.

**Apprenticeship Levy: Proposer Stephen Graham & Mark Page.**

Referenced back from the 2018 Summer Assembly.

- 1 The Apprenticeship levy has seen a decline in the take-up of apprenticeships, with a reported 31%
- 2 fall in numbers in the last academic year.
- 3 The party believe the scheme although well intended has proven cumbersome and does not meet the
- 4 wider needs of the economy, nationally or regionally, which remains prominently service orientated.
- 5 A properly funded network of regional training boards would be better suited and responsive to
- 6 local skill shortages whilst freeing up companies from the administration burden of seeking
- 7 accreditation of approved training schemes.

**Constitutional Reform.** Proposers Stephen Graham & Steve Radford.

- 1 The Liberal Party wishes to offer the population of the current United Kingdom greater regional
- 2 autonomy, with the aspiration to the adoption of a federalised structure.
- 3 The party offers the three options for constitutional change:
- 4 Greater regional devolution – a stepping stone to Federalism but lacking a English Parliament and
- 5 written constitution.
- 6 A four Nation Federation – four home nation parliaments with an over-arching federal parliament
- 7 Three Nation plus English Regional Parliaments federation – each English region having equal
- 8 status.
- 9 The party fully acknowledges that the last two option required considerable constitutional work and
- 10 the formulation of a written constitution.

### **Home Solar Energy. Proposed by the Liverpool Liberal Party.**

1 The Liberal Party deplores that the government recently announced that all incentives for new solar  
2 installations are to cease at the end of March 2019.

3 The current Feed in Tariff (FIT) incentives comprise of two payments for solar energy, Generation  
4 tariff, solar owners get paid a tariff for every unit of electricity they generate , Export tariff “ solar  
5 owners will get paid for any excess energy that goes back to the grid

6 While it was expected that the generation tariff was coming to a close, the export tariff has come as  
7 a shock to the industry. Closure of the export tariff will mean that excess energy (assumed around  
8 50% of a households solar energy generation) will be going back to the National Grid for free,  
9 meaning that private energy companies will be the only ones benefiting from these incentive cuts.

10 The consultation paper predicts that this will mean virtually no more deployment of solar post  
11 March 2019. This will invariably cause significant job loss in the solar industry,

12 The costed justification is that removing incentives/ export payments for solar will save  
13 homeowners money on their energy bills.

14 Meanwhile the government are subsidizing fracking and nuclear energy which are both detrimental  
15 to the environment.

16 The Liberal Party calls for an immediate withdrawal of these measures to reduce support for solar  
17 panels.

18 Furthermore we deplore the bureaucratic nature of the admin of the current solar panel feed in tariff  
19 scheme. We urge local councils utilise section 106 payments to support solar panels in community  
20 buildings.

### **Education in English Cities. Proposed by the Liverpool Liberal Party.**

1 The Liberal Party notes with concern that educational attainment levels in many English  
2 cities and urban conurbations remain poor.

3 We believe far too much political energy and effort has been put in to promote or deter  
4 academies, it is now to move the whole level of English educational attainment forward.

5 We note that pre-school education can have a dramatic and positive benefit.

6 We therefore call upon a funding package dedicated to supporting the continuation of  
7 children centres in all major cities and areas of economic deprivation.

**Brexit Implementation. Proposed by the Liverpool Liberal Party.**

1 The Liberal Party notes with contempt that those most vociferous for an EU Referendum  
2 this year are those who have cynically voted against and de-railed all election pledges  
3 made by their own political parties to deliver referenda on the EU itself and various stages  
4 over centralisation

5 The Liberal Party believes that HM Government should deliver a Brexit as the outcome the  
6 British People voted for

7 Arguments that we didn't know what sort of Brexit would be delivered are counter  
8 balanced by equal arguments we had not a clear assurance what sort of shape continued  
9 membership would take had we remained

10 This Liberal Party believes that the current deal offered by the UK government is far and a  
11 real attempt to meet the concerns of industry and business and a significant number of  
12 those who voted to remain

13 We believe relentless objections by the EU will result in the UK leaving the EU without a  
14 mutually beneficial deal and therefore the vigorous challenge will be for the UK to enter  
15 into Trade deals across the world unfettered by obligations to the EU.