

# **Special Assembly Motions**

## **Carried – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019**

### **THE FINAL REPORT OF THE DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT COMMITTEE'S 18-MONTH INVESTIGATION INTO FACEBOOK'S FAKE NEWS AND DISINFORMATION.**

!. THE LIBERAL PARTY NOTES THAT THIS DEVASTATING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT FOUND THAT::

- 1.1. Facebook had deliberately and knowingly obstructed the Committee.
- 1.2. Facebook had failed to deal with attempts by Russia to manipulate elections in the U.S. and the U.K.
- 1.3. Facebook had targeted millions of citizens with dis-information and personalised “dark adverts” from unidentifiable sources delivered through the major social media platforms.
- 1.4. Mark Zuckerberg, Founder and Chief Executive of Facebook, was in contempt of Parliament by refusing three separate demands for him to appear before the Committee and give evidence.
- 1.5. Mark Zuckerberg continually fails to show the levels of leadership and personal responsibility that should be expected from someone who sits at the top of one of the world’s biggest companies.
- 1.6. Facebook was associated with the Cambridge Analytical scandal by collusion and Facebook malpractice.

2. THE LIBERAL PARTY NOTES THAT FACEBOOK IS CURRENTLY BEYOND THE LAW AND THAT FACEBOOK MALPRACTICES ARE DESTRUCTIVE OF DEMOCRACY.

2.1. The Liberal Party supports the Parliamentary Committee’s recommendation to the Government to establish an independent investigation into “Facebook’s foreign influence, disinformation, funding, voter manipulation, and the sharing of data in the 2014 Scottish referendum, Brexit and the 2017 General Election.”

3 THE LIBERAL PARTY REGRETS THAT THE FACEBOOK MALPRACTICES HAVE BEEN AIDED AND PART FACILITATED BY THE UNCRITICAL SUPPORT OF BRITISH CITIZENS.

3.1. Facebook malpractices have been facilitated by the public, (including Liberal Party members). Millions have supported Facebook despite the highly publicised condemnation of Facebook for facilitating criminal activities including human trafficking, child grooming sexual exploitation, dog fighting, hare coursing, and other forms of illegal animal cruelty,

4. THE LIBERAL PARTY NOTES THAT THE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR, AND PARTICIPATION IN, FACEBOOK ACTIVITIES HAS MADE FACEBOOK ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PROFITABLE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD.

4.1. Facebook's enormous income is derived from advertisers who are charged high fees which are directly linked to the number of Facebook users. Thus the public are not only facilitating Facebook's illegal, and immoral anti-democratic activities, the public are indirectly financing Facebook and enabling the company to impose high charges on their advertisers.

5. THE LIBERAL PARTY NOTES THAT FACEBOOK SHOWS NO INCLINATION TO REFORM, CONTINUES TO AGGRESSIVE TAX AVOIDANCE, AND ALLOWS THE NUMEROUS MALPRACTICES TO PERSIST.

### **Climate Emergency**

The Liberal Party accepts there is sufficient scientific evidence of climate damage, for a Climate Emergency to be declared and actions taken to reduce the impact humans are having on our planet.

We therefore open up the Liberal Party policy set to scrutiny and resolve to review and edit any policy which is demonstrated to cause or exacerbate climate damage.

We also encourage our elected representatives and wider membership to ensure a request is submitted to local authorities in their area, to debate and consider a Climate Emergency motion.

### **Brown-field Sites**

In line with existing Liberal Party Planning Policy - Environmental Consideration and to help facilitate greater protection of Greenbelt land, we support the introduction of tax incentives to ensure that Brown-field sites are safely cleared, decontaminated and returned to available stock to meet community requirements.