

Motions Passed at the 134th Liberal Assembly

5th October 2019

Refurbishment or relocation of the UK Parliament resident in the Palace of Westminster

The UK Parliament will relocate to temporary accommodation within London after 2025 whilst major repair and rebuilding take's place.

The party believes that the current building in the Palace of Westminster, dating back to 1840 with major rebuilding completed in 1950 are no-longer fit for a modern democracy.

It lacks the capacity to accommodate modern communications and IT equipment, requires major structural modernisation and costly electrical rewiring. Its layout and culture negatively affected the quality of debate.

The costs of a full refurbishment have been put at up to 1.7billion pounds.

The party believes the seat of government should be relocated to a modern debating chamber, located in Birmingham, West Midlands and removing the City of London bias in its outlook and influence.

Its construction would act as a major boost to regional investment and be accessible from a wide geographical area of the UK.

National Executive Committee

Hong Kong protests

The Liberal Party notes the ongoing civil protests and unrest in Hong Kong.

Whilst acknowledging the sovereignty of the Chinese Government over the region after its return to their jurisdiction in 1997 the UK and Chinese governments still have joint responsibilities under the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

The UK government should seek to remind the Chinese authorities of their commitments and use its influence to ensure continued free debate and political representation for the residents of Hong Kong.

The retention of a healthy democratic system within Hong Kong acts as a visible sign of the Chinese government's willingness to honour its commitment to a system of "one country two systems".

The British Government should immediately declare that those entitled to a British Passport prior to 1997 and their families should be offered the right to residence in the UK.

National Executive Committee

Fracking and Subterranean earth tremors

The Liberal Party notes the continued series of earth tremors in the vicinity of Cuadrilla Resources drilling site at Preston New Road in Lancashire.

The party re-iterates its support for the termination of fracking in the UK. The party believes that government support would be better directed to local renewable energy schemes and the long-term development of storage technology.

National Executive Committee

Continued suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly – Referred back

National Executive Committee

Preserving the Brazilian rainforests

The Liberal Party notes the catastrophic fires which has consumed tracts of the Brazilian rainforests. These forests, along with tracts of central Africa and the far east act as the extended lungs of the planet.

The party acknowledges the sovereignty of the Brazilian state over its own lands and national resources but recognises that the rainforest is of vital importance both regionally and globally in the fight to contain global warming.

The party calls for an international effort to engage with the Brazilian Government and its President Jair Bolsonaro to safeguard this unique environment which represents at least 50% of the world remaining rainforest.

Options for preserving the rainforests can include carbon trading or Co2 sequestration schemes, or the direct leasing or management of tracks of the land or even debt forgiveness.

The current levels of deforestation are unsustainable and urgent action is needed to prevent a point of no return being reached with regards the regeneration of the rainforests and call for the urgent reforestation of the rainforests.

We also deplore the attack on indigenous communities by the destruction of their communities.

It also leads to the loss of the natural environment and species unique for use in medical research.

National Executive Committee

Constitutional Bill of Speech:

Freedom of speech is to be considered one of the pillars of a free and Liberal society and as such must be protected by those who support and uphold these views.

A Constitutional Bill of speech should be pushed forward to remove and rewrite laws that have been introduced by the government over decades to erode this fundamental right and encourage the Government's ever-increasing encroachment upon an individual's privacy.

The bill must include freedom of speech (Verbal, Written and Electronic) to all within the United Kingdom and it's territories with exclusions to the following:

*Defamation

*Credible Threats of Violence and/or Terrorism

*Creating Panic to Risk or Cause Physical harm to others within a public arena

Impinging the right of free speech has never been effective in silencing dangerous language, and instead risks driving such discourse underground where, away from the public eye, it grows and spreads unchallenged.

Richard Phillips and Stephen Graham

Repeal the government's Age Verification laws on Adult content sites online:

The government will be mandating stronger enforcement on verification to access adult content via the Digital Economy Act. This identification process will likely require the giving out information of Credit/Debit card details, Driving License numbers or for a pass to be purchased.

Citizen's data privacy lays at risk of potential data leak or hacking that we have seen over the years with systems that incorporate online facilities i.e. NHS, Ashley Madison scandal, for the sake of State control of adult material and it's consumption when other methods of parental guidance and restrictions exist via software for Computer, smartphones and tablets.

Software like this should be encouraged for the parent to use at home and education available for them to understand how to use it.

Richard Phillips and Stephen Graham

Referenced back from June Special Assembly.

Post Brexit Immigration Policy Motion

The Liberal Party believes in controlled immigration as the only way to ensure the adequate planning of public services, a balanced employment market, use of resources and national security.

To this end we welcome the UK having control of our borders post Brexit. We were one of the first political parties to immediately call for protection for EU citizens working and living in the UK to remain here.

We would urge the UK government to broaden the access for EU citizens living and working in the UK registering for the right to continued residency

We urge the government to clarify the rules on what qualifies as a serious crime to debar anyone staying for the avoidance of ambiguity and inconsistent policy application. We urge the UK government to develop immigration policies with a clear skills gap analysis rather than look purely at earning levels and wealth. We re-iterate our belief that a free movement with other commonwealth countries with a shared language, history and cultural ties.

We also believe that in any immigration policy we should see an obvious mutual advantage to give preference to Commonwealth countries who share English as a significant language and have established communities here.

Cllr Steve Radford and Stephen Graham