

Liberal Party Special Assembly – 6th December 2020

A Local Response to the COVID Pandemic

The Liberal Party notes the increasing regional orientation of restrictions to curtail the Covid-19 pandemic prior to the comprehensive national lockdown.

The party believes that a local response directed by elected officials produces a better targeted response than one controlled centrally and can rely on local knowledge and support from the community.

Local Health Protection Teams have consistently outperformed online and call centre-based services when tracing close contacts of those who have tested positive.

Test, track and trace services should be run locally by local NHS Trusts and councils, with results processed in the local region to facilitate quicker availability and a timelier response to the emergence of hot spots.

Local Universities can provide complimentary facilities and computer power whilst local medical colleges have trainee staff who would bring invaluable expertise whilst gaining experience.

Such efforts will need to be funded with grants from central government as and when a regional response is needed to reduce local infection rates.

Council Public Health Services have been under funded since the onset of austerity but play a vital role in education and intervention and their long-term funding needs to be secured.

Policy Development Committee

School Meal Provision

The Liberal Party sees the opportunity to debate the provision of free school meals and a review of school opening times following the defeat of the parliamentary motion in October 2020 to extend free school meals for disadvantaged children.

We believe that the Government should investigate the adoption of the French school system of providing every child with a nutritional and filling breakfast and dinner each day they are at school and during school holidays for those most in need.

Such a scheme would promote healthy minds and bodies, lays the foundation for an appreciation of health eating habits for life, discourages childhood obesity and inadvertently tackles inequality in our society. It also ensures attentive children, the development of social skills and better educational outcomes.

We believe all children should be automatically enrolled for school meals and that parents should be allowed to opt out of the scheme if they wish.

The party does recognise that this initiative will require substantial investment in restoring school catering facilities and funding for its on-going provision within the framework of local schools and Academy Trusts with an initial pilot scheme promoted by the Liberal Party.

We believe this has long-term benefits in line with our stated Health & Wellbeing Policy.

Policy Development Committee

Environment Policy Motion - Climate Change

The Liberal Party acknowledges that there is now little doubt that we humans, along with most other species on the planet, will face the most challenging time in recorded history during the remainder of this century – and that challenge for each species will be survival.

We humans have a particular responsibility to do whatever we can to minimise the extent other species are being forced into extinction, primarily through climate change and loss of habitat, more so as it is we who have knowingly and recklessly created the conditions that have caused these events - which have rightly been described by Sir David Attenborough as CRIMES.

The Liberal Party accepts it is not all humans who are responsible for these criminal acts, but a select few.

The primary task for The Liberal Party and others with similar concerns, is to expose and publicise these culpable acts by all legal means available. Additionally, we must network with like-minded groupings at home and in other countries to ensure they too are working to expose global corruption and to press their government for change.

David Attenborough in his book and supporting video 'A Life on Our Planet' has set out his vision of what we must do to prevent a catastrophic mass extinction. As part of our Post Pandemic Recovery & Renewal manifesto, the Liberal Party adopts his vision to guide the establishment of policies that support the delivery and promotion of practical solutions.

Following this the Liberal Party will be revising its green and environmental policies to reflect the current scientific consensus.

Paul Bradshaw & John Roffey