

The 136th Liberal Party Assembly



**Briar Rose Hotel,
Birmingham, 2nd October
2021**

136th Liberal Party Assembly.

Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, B2 5RE

Programme of Events.

- 12:00** **Registration**
- 12.30-13.00** **Welcome: Cllr Steve Radford, President of the Liberal Party.**
- 13.15-14.30** **Session One: Motions**
- Exempt SME's from Stringent Employment Tribunal Regulation
- Environmental Policy Statement – Nuclear Power
- Taxation Policy Debate
- 14.30-14.45** **Mid Afternoon Break.**
- 14.45-15.45** **Afternoon Session.**
- Party Business. **Session only open to Party Members.**
- Changes to Party Constitution
- Adoption of a new Liberal Party Emblem and Branding
- 15.45-16.00** **Afternoon Break**
- 16.00- 17.00** **Final Session.**
- Agricultural Policy Statement
- Fisheries Policy Debate

Assembly to be followed by a National Executive Committee meeting.

Exempt SME's from stringent Employment Tribunal regulation

The Liberal Party recognises the vital role of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (*SME's*) or small businesses in the need to create growth to increase economic recovery from the Covid pandemic.

This means that we need to create the balance of social needs and business flexibility to encourage growth whilst protecting workers rights.

Therefore, we call for an immediate review of rules applicable to SME's or small businesses with reference to employment law and to this end propose:

SME's be Subject to the same balance of proof by any employee in any unfair dismissal proceeding

That the proof of being an unfair dismissal must not rest on procedural issues alone, but the substantive judgment by the employer was unreasonable

We believe this protection be given to SME's or small business of equivalent to 20 full time employees as one tribunals case alone could threaten the viability of the business.

Steve Radford and Policy development committee

Environmental Policy Statement

The following motions need to be debated and passed to become official party policy.

Nuclear Power

The Liberal Party opposes the long-term generation of electricity by nuclear fission but accept there are limitations on the availability of wind and solar power on a 24-hour basis and that the global Climate Change crisis dictates prompt action.

The Party acknowledges that largescale offline storage for solar and wind power is still a decade or more away and there is a current need to maintain a baseline on the national grid to prevent rolling blackouts at times of peak demand.

As such the party believes that the current proposals for Hinckley Point C and Sizewell C represent the best short-term solution to providing low CO2 energy whilst maintaining the reliability of the UK's power supply until new storage technologies are available.

As such these fission reactors should be the last constructed in this country.

Liberals remain committed to the long-term phasing out of the use of nuclear fission but support the continued research and development on nuclear fusion.

Fusion reactors use hydrogen as their fuel, the simplest atomic element and leave's none of the radioactive waste created by the splitting of the more complex Uranium atom. They produce no CO2 and are available on a 24-hour basis to maintain the baseline of the national grid.

The party believes that the long-term solution to the issues of renewable energy lays in better battery capacity and a smart national grid to accommodate green energy and calls for intensified research and investment in these areas.

Policy Development Committee

Taxation Policy Debate

The Liberal Party proposes replacing Business Rates and Council Tax with a Local Land Value Tax and scrapping Stamp Duty on property sales

The Liberal Party has always stood on fair taxation for the communities of Great Britain and allowing the communities to manage their needs, rather than a centralised power that has no vision of how other counties are affected.

The Liberal Party believes that we must replace business rates and council tax for a simple land value taxation system. This would be overseen by local councils to decide how much taxation will be based upon Postcode and use of the land.

This would allow for councils to take action to ensure the land within residential, rural (Agricultural or Environment preservation) and commercial areas are being used effectively, whilst encouraging the sales of property that are unoccupied or no longer in use to be purchased and developed upon.

Using a simple land value system would also help potential new homeowners see their market open up by encouraging those that own multiple homes, some of which are unoccupied or unused, to sell their extra properties. This would bring in a much-needed aid for Local Councils to address the housing crisis within their areas at a local level.

Scrapping Stamp Duty would remove a financial disincentive to the prompt sale of vacant homes or where residents wish to downsize.

Policy development Committee

Agricultural Policy Statement

The United Kingdom is now in a unique position to abandon the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and adopt a scheme which encourage sustainable food production in our own country post BREXIT.

Subsidies have encouraged intensive farming methods which have created large field systems and the loss of hedgerows which act as wildlife corridors. This has inevitably encouraged over production for its own sake and inflated supermarket waste.

Boosting domestic food production in the name of food security is irrelevant for any nation able to buy and sell on the international market with the benefits of tariff free trade.

Another danger with subsidies is that they make food cheaper elsewhere whilst over exploiting local resources and producing unnecessary surpluses which are then stored to maintain market prices.

The country needs to adopt sustainable land usage and distribution, not intensive agriculture, or adverse use of the landscape.

This country should aim to establish sustainable local production post BREXIT with a safety net to support transition in change of agriculture and to allow people to leave the industry.

Subsidies keep unprofitable farmers in business and encourage marginal activities such as hill farming which are not economically viable and caused environmental degradation through over grazing.

At the same time tax breaks on capital gains, inheritance tax and fuel subsidies increase land values preventing new entrants to farming due to unrealistic land prices and stifle innovation.

Payments could be made in a more targeted and efficient manner, specifically tailored to the meet the needs of farming and citizens in the UK

We would encourage an Environmental land management system where regional authorities would be granted funding to promote rewilding & green activities with a bidding scheme to encourage innovative and environmentally beneficial initiatives.

We welcome local environmental initiatives which encourage biodiversity and reduce flood risk such as tree planting and hedgerow laying.

We also support local workers alliance such as that on Exmoor and the creation of regional Agriculture Boards to support local agricultural businesses.

We believe regional food processing reduces transportation costs and the carbon footprint of food stuffs as well as securing local employment.

The party would retain EU food standards so there is not a race to the bottom and consumers receive basic protection

Policy development Committee

Fisheries Policy Debate

Brexit has given the U.K a great opportunity to first of all rejuvenate struggling old fishing Towns and City's (and smaller locations). The industry needs properly regulating for all types of manners by a 'proper competent agency'.

Issues for debate:

- The number of boats going out needs rationalising as well as license allocation and resale.
- Fish stocks need monitoring
- The health of the Seabed needs monitoring to protect the Sea Eco-system holistically
- Fishing methods need studying – net size, depth and mooring for example
- Boats need monitors put on them in a similar manner to Lorry Drivers vehicles (to assist how often and long boats are going out; and when there coming in so they can be inspected)
- International Trade needs to be managed and Fish in Britain should be pushed
- Fishing needs to be taxed fairly and competently
- Governments grants and apprenticeships should be encouraged to bring back a 'traditional Industry'. It does add to the 'cultural side' of Towns and Cities; and gives locals a sense of worth and pride. There are claims that places such as Grimsby have suffered in non-economic terms because of its loss of identity
- Jobs would be created on a regional basis and in local communities.

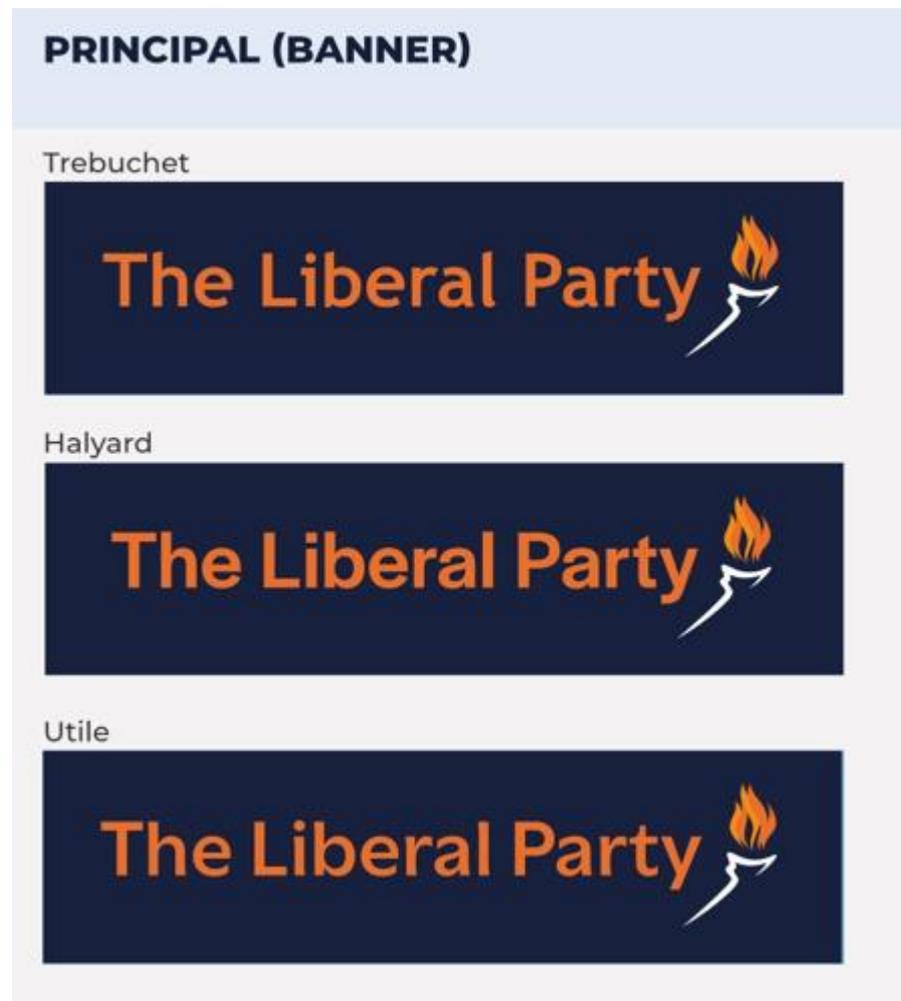
Mark Page & Stephen Graham

Appendix 1

Liberal Party Emblem Change

The Liberal Party NEC has been actively looking at modernising the party emblem and our social media presence.

After an appeal for potential emblems the NEC had agreed to bring the following image proposed by Farès K Moussa to the annual party Assembly for debate and approval from the membership.





This greyscale image would be used for the ballot paper.



Please note the original sunburst emblem will be retained for local campaigns

