



Liberal Party Statement of Policy Direction, July 2022

"Making life affordable in the face of a cost-of-living crisis"

We believe in putting more money into the pockets of the people and reducing barriers to employment:

Making homes available and affordable

Zero VAT on renovation and repair of houses to help people improve properties and bring more on the market

All long-term vacant homes after 1 year be double rated for council tax and after 3 years treble rated for council tax to stimulate more properties being brought back into use

Double funding for Registered Housing Association and Councils to borrow to build new homes for rent

Stop the enforced sale of RSL and council homes as over 40% have ended up in the private rented market

Making Life more affordable for all

Lift the income tax threshold to £20k taking potentially five million out of the tax benefits trap, reduce benefits proportionately, reduce the administrative burden of both tax and benefits. Introduce phased bands of income tax at 30 per cent to rebalance the budget for higher earners. With the increased disposable income some benefits could be scaled back

Provide a baby bond for every child under 5 to attend a private nursey, to attend a pre-school reception or private nursey provision at a flat rate of £2500 replacing the various benefits rates offered now

More support for Workers

Extend employment protection rights for all workers with more than 20 hours per week and one year's employment

Provide re-employment opportunities by creating Industrial Training Boards for all industries led by both Trade Union and Employer representation financed by an industrial levy

The bar on hours of study which would disqualify people from state benefits be raised to 30 hours to encourage people to upskill

More support for Seniors

Restore pension rights to women who have been out of the work environment due to childcare and dependents care and reduce the NI qualifying period for women in these circumstances

The tax threshold of £20k will mean more pensioners on limited pensions can take more income home and encourage pensioners to contribute to the economy in part time and flexible work

Improve funding for sheltered housing schemes to be built across the country enabling seniors to downsize and release larger properties for family usage

Expand the economy - help small businesses

Raise the threshold for VAT registration for small businesses or self-employed to £150k

Small employers with a workforce less than 20 should have equality in the burden of evidence required in Industrial Tribunals

Workplace pensions should be operated on the basis of opt in to reduce excessive admin

Grow the Green Economy

We regret the UK government has committed to boost nuclear power when sustainable green energy measures like wind power should be expanded having been proven to be cheaper and safer

Support for retro fit of older housing stock would reduce our dependency on non-sustainable energy

Extend tree planting in hill areas and flood plains to make improve resilience to increased threats of flooding

Education enhancing choice, opportunity, and excellence

Every adult student over 18 should have a £10k grant to fund education and training from a recognised body whether vocational, higher education or University.

Inheritance Tax

This should be funded from a reduction of the vast exemptions in inheritance taxes. Inheritance taxes should be charged to the person receiving across their lifetime and start at a threshold of £200k and taper at rates rising from 10 to 40 per cent

Reducing Air pollution and connecting the economy

Each county should be able to control and regulate public transport not just the city regions in England

We need investment to restore local rail links and connect people to places of work and education without needing car usage

As each rail regional network contract comes up for renewal the Government should consider the merit to reintegrating that contract back into a national rail network

Health promotion

We need to promote positive healthy lifestyles and each community should have a joint board with GP's , Health professionals, Local Councillors (district or Parish) and educators to drive forward health education initiatives

There needs to be greater strategic and operational co-operation between National Health and Social Services

Steve Radford

Leader of the Liberal Party

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