

Motion Passed at
the 137th Liberal Party Assembly
St Columba's United Reformed Church, York,
15th October 2022

Cost of Living Crisis – Passed as amended

The Liberal Party welcomes the replacement of the energy cap with the energy prices guarantee but notes serious omissions with the program.

Whilst domestic customers will be protected for 2 years, support for hard pressed SME and businesses, schools, hospitals, and charities has only been set for 6 months with a review within 3 months for what are described as “Vulnerable” industries.

Without a long-term guarantee on energy prices many businesses and employers will no longer be able to continue trading, resulting in both business closures and job losses, but also a loss of economic activity, business rates and VAT for the treasury.

We believe an energy prices support strategy should include all energy consumers to provide the maximum protection for livelihoods and businesses in this country.

The party believes that the long-term solution to our energy needs is greater investment in green energy and reductions in energy waste.

Ukraine Crisis – Post Conflict Reconstruction -Passed as amended

The Liberal Party has watched with dismay at the wholesale destruction inflicted on Ukraine during the current military conflict.

Whole towns and villages as well as major cities have been subject to punitive attacks aimed at crippling Ukrainian society, culture, and the economy.

We believe that planning for the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure and economy should be a priority for the international community in the immediate cessation of hostilities along with humanitarian aid.

We also believe that Russian assets seized because of international sanctions should be used for reconstruction under international supervision to ensure good governance.

A thriving Ukrainian economic recovery would allow the people of a free Ukraine to rehabilitate their anguish and loss after this terrible conflict.

Environmental Policy Proposal:

Following on from an APPG Youth Affairs meeting in December 2021, the Liberal Party Youth would suggest a 20p "deposit" on transactions involving plastic bottles that would be returned upon the return of these bottles. We envisage sites to return these bottles being widespread to allow for easy return.

We believe this policy would reduce the "eco-anxiety" of young people which have shown a consistent rising trend. It would also give younger people a clear example of the difference recycling makes.

This policy has been utilised in countries like Germany (The Pfand) and studies have shown that up to 99% of cans are recycled every year and only 1-3% of reusable bottles are not returned.

Plastic Grass – passed as amended

The Liberal Party wishes to discourage indiscriminate laying and retention of plastic or artificial lawns including other hard landscaping.

Whilst maintenance free they create wildlife deserts, do not soak up rainfall, or offer any take-up of CO2.

Further they have a direct impact on the urban heat island effect.

There is no transpiration from plastic grass, and it becomes considerably hotter than a grass lawn potentially increasing the demand for domestic air conditioning.

There are also unresolved issues on the environmental cost of manufacturing and recycling of these products and the risk of microplastic's polluting the environment.

We would urge homeowners to seed or lay natural lawns or turf where practical and for Councils to refrain from their use within their areas of influence for any other purpose other than recreation facilities.

The United Kingdom National Debt – Passed as amended

The Liberal Party notes the office for budget responsibilities report of July 2022 which projects a potential national debt of 350% of GDP by 2050, up from 99.6% or £2.3 trillion as of 2021.

Whilst the party believe such projections are pessimistic, they act as a warning to the unsustainable levels of national debt being passed to future generations and the potential interest payment burden that would entail.

The party accepted that the Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis required large scale financial interventions but believe the nation should commit itself to delivering more restraint on the national debt with the long-term goal of reducing it.

We believe that whilst we must invest to grow, we also need to manage expenditure and the party believes government must take steps to secure tax revenues and income to fund public services.

Appendix A

Constitutional Amendment - Passed

Amend the second paragraph of J2 to reader Leader and not President.

*Should the appointment of the registered Treasurer terminate for any reason, the position shall be assumed first by the **Party Leader**, then Nominating Officer and then other registered officer until a replacement has been appointed.*

A revised constitution will be forwarded to the Election Commission.

Appendix B

Policy review

The Role of the Monarchy

The current policy will be withdrawn and revisited after May's coronation to allow time for reflection on the future role of the monarchy.

Appendix C

Website Amendments and New Policy Suggestions for approval at Annual Assembly.

The document was adopted by the Assembly, and we thank Jack Baker and Kayed Al-Haddad for their tremendous efforts.

The document will be used to refresh the website with any areas of remaining concern to be highlighted for further revision.

