

## Statement From Our Leader Cllr Steve Radford

During the general election we promoted our Make Work Pay message supported by some good artwork. Our policy was subject to Reform copying it so they may have blunted some of our appeal.

Going forward we must ensure such messages are reiterated and our positive policies on supporting small businesses are developed and promoted further.

In response to the recent riots, I make no apologies in saying if the government had acted more robustly after the Manchester Airport vicious attack on our police and the Leeds riots, they may not have sent out the message "rioting is OK in the UK".

There does need to be a measured debate on immigration and the abuses of our asylum system.

As a society we should not be expected to home those people who are committed to undermine our society. All rioting and violence should be condemned.

There is nothing patriotic about attacking our police and emergency services. There is nothing Christian by make false allegations against another faith or attacking anyone's place of worship.

Controlling illegal entry to the country does not undermine supporting genuine refugees, we have a proud history supporting refugees whether Ugandan



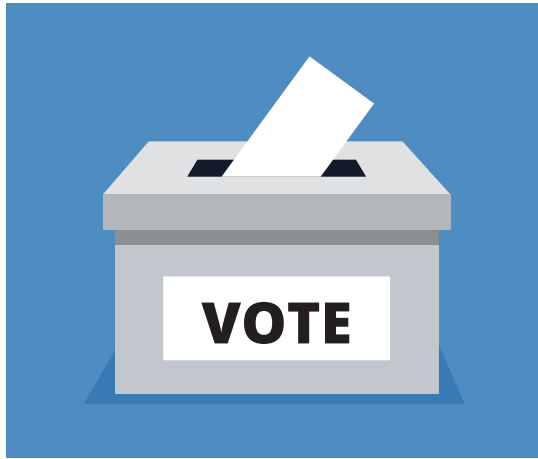
Asians or Ukrainian refugees or those from Hong Kong. We need to process all applications quicker and return those who are not valid refugees.

As Liberals we need to look beyond the symptoms but at the causes of conflict. We need a considered international policy that does not contribute to civil wars in countries giving rise to immigration pressures in the first place.

We need take action to help disadvantaged communities out of poverty in the UK. It is the gap between the very rich and the very poor that extremists from both sides of the spectrum will exploit.

Decades of austerity have wiped out any meaningful youth services. We need a long-term investment in our young people otherwise it will only be a matter of time before the next outbreak of rioting or worse.

# General Election Roundup



The Liberal party ran 12 parliamentary candidates in the July election. The Merseyside association also contested 2 by-elections for Liverpool City council where Alan Tormey represented the party in the Broad Green Ward and in Alan Oscoft in Clubmoor East Ward.

The party took 6375 votes in total, the 8th highest average per candidate in the UK election and we retained our deposit in Liverpool West Derby where party leader Cllr Steve Radford stood. In West Derby

we saw continued growth with our vote increasing by 500 votes and 2 per cent in the vote share surpassing both the Liberal Democrats and Tory candidates despite a blanket news blackout.

Our 4 candidates in the Duchy of Cornwall used to opportunity to canvas in anticipation of all-out elections in the peninsular next May.

We are grateful to our members and donors for their support during the campaign.

The party is always keen to speak to potential candidates across the country who are interested in supporting their local community and representing Liberalism at the ballot box.

Our Nominating office can be contacted at: [infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk](mailto:infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk)

## Liberal Party Assembly 5th October 2024



liberal party.

The event will be a blended meeting with a Zoom facility for those wishing to participate and the Assembly/Conference is open to all members.

The annual Liberal Party assembly will be held on the 5th October at The Great Barr Hotel, Birmingham, B43 6HS. The event will run from 9:30am till 4:30pm and be hosted in the 'The Festival Suite'.

This is the annual event where policy is debated, and we welcome submission for discussion at the meeting. It is your opportunity to influence the direction of the NEC, [infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk](mailto:infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk)

Travel options for the venue are available via <https://www.traveline.info/>

Using a larger venue will give members attending the vent to opportunity to socialise in more relaxed surrounding during the meeting.

More details and a Zoom meeting invite can be obtained from the secretary to the NEC, [infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk](mailto:infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk)

# Appeal for Updated Members Contact Details



The Liberal Party wishes to maintain contact with our members in the most effective and responsible ways possible.

We have adopted a hybrid method of delivering Liberal News via e-mail or post depending on members preferences.

We appreciate many long-term members will have submitted their contact details when they originally joined the party, but we still have some gaps in our records which we would like to fill in and we would ask members to ensure we have your most recent address details.

Members details are kept securely in line with our responsibilities within GDPR.

The party membership secretary can be contacted via [membership@liberal.org.uk](mailto:membership@liberal.org.uk)

## Statement on Prisoners paying board and lodgings after miscarriages of justice



The Liberal Party rejects the recent decision to refuse to refund deductions for “bed and board” for those who has suffered historical miscarriages of justice.

Whilst the policy has been discontinued for recent cases, the decision to apply it retroactively had been passed to the incoming government, which they have now refused.

The party finds it incredulous that people whose convictions have been overturned should be told they would have had to paid rent and food if they had been at liberty and so their compensation is being reduced accordingly.

Even the term miscarriage of justice has been redefined to mean that their conviction was tainted by dishonesty or malpractice by the prosecution or police, not that the courts or jury simply got it wrong.

Those protesting their conviction are often further penalised for refusing to accept their guilt by being denied an early parole hearing.

The party find this an affront to natural justice and supports reform of the legal system for the paying of compensation where it is due.

# PR – Devil in the Details

## Do Not Be Sold Short

The following is an extract from a recent discussion document from Christopher Ecclestone.

For Liberals the voting system in the UK has long been a source of concern. How can one believe in “one-man one vote” and then have more than half the electorate disenfranchised by the brutally Darwinian First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting system. This may work for horse races, but for democracy it is a disaster.

The two major parties have long equivocated on this issue. They know it is undemocratic

and leaves a vast swathe of the electorate unrepresented, but they also know it is the thing that has perpetuated the two-party hegemony.

The 2024 election was the first ever where four parties got over 10% of the vote share. Some posited that the British public were already voting as if the UK has a proportional representation system. But they weren't.... A vast number of MPs were elected on less than 50% of the voters in their constituencies.

### True PR

The type of system we should be angling for should be true proportional representation on a basis of regions. The UK should be split into nine or ten regions, with 5-6 million people in each. A case could be made for London, with its 8-9mn people being one region and

Wales and Northern Ireland with their smaller populations existing as smaller regions. Then PR would be applied.

Such an arrangement could very well deliver The Liberal Party seats in two of the regions, for starters.

### Conclusion

The latest elections showed that the system is more than broken, it is also massively inequitable. No government should be able to win a big majority on a minority of the vote.

The First Past The Post system is warping UK politics and denying representation to the vast majority. Under a proportional voting system,

seats more closely match votes, so that the Liberal portion of the population can finally get a say and have more impact on what happens in Westminster.

This full document can be found on the Liberal Party website in the discussion document section.

## Liberal Party Discussion Documents

The Liberal Party is grateful to David Green the organiser of the Supervote Project, a small campaign which seeks to reform our voting system, for his recent discussion documents on the lopsided distribution of votes and hence seats in the local and the recent general election.

We welcome the submission of material from within and outside the party to stimulate and inform debate without prejudice towards their origins.

Please e-mail any contributions for consideration to [infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk](mailto:infotheliberalparty@liberal.org.uk)