

The 140th Liberal Party Assembly



4th October 2025
Grand Hotel Scarborough

140th Liberal Party Assembly.

Programme of Events.

9:00	Registration
9.30-10.00	Opening Address – Cllr Steve Radford, Leader of the Liberal Party Agenda – Cllr Charles Shaw, Chair of the NEC
10.15-12.30	Session One: Motions The Labour Governments first year in power – a lost year of social reform Farmers inheritance tax An NHS free at the point of delivery
12.30-13:45	Lunch
13.45-14.30	Afternoon Session. Party Business. Session only open to Party Members. Change of party name. descriptor and the adoption of diamond emblem Policy Development Document - What is the most important issue affecting the country today? - HOUSING Motions European Convention on Human Rights(ECHR). Parole for all those under an Imprisonment for Public Protection(IPP) Order
14.30-15.00	Afternoon Break
15.00- 16.30	Final Session. Motions Reform of the Single Justice Procedure

The reinstatement of a standard £2 adult bus fare

The provision of free pre-school childcare

Ukraine Independence Day August 2025

Awards & Presentations

Cllr Paul Holmes from Cornwall.

This year marks 60 years since he joined the party and 40 years since he first stood as councillor in Cornwall.

Cllr Jean Pollack from Cornwall has now been a member of our party for 45 years

Assembly to be followed by a short National Executive Committee meeting.

Motions for Debate

The Labour Governments first year in power – a lost year of social reform

The Liberal Party notes the completion of the Labour Governments first year in power.

The party believes there is little to commend its first year in office, having failed to address the issues of the 2-child welfare cap, winter fuel pavements and proposed welfare cuts which imperil the most vulnerable in society.

It has imposed a £22 billion pound hike in employer NI contributions which has stifled economic growth and does nothing to address the lack of growth in the economy.

The Liberal Party calls for a growth agenda for the small business, SME and charity sector to increase economic activity, employment and opportunity.

We support reducing the VAT thresholds for small business, reduce bureaucracy and red-tape and the implementation of a business rate which reflects a business cost to the community, not a source of government revenue.

The Liberal Party NEC

Farmers inheritance tax

The Liberal Party opposes the government s proposals for the implementation of inheritance tax on farm estates through the Agricultural and Business Property Relief changes (APR and BPR)

The size of holdings needed to make farming viable, and the cost of equipment and land all inflate the value of farm estates.

The current proposals risk the premature disposal of land and compromises food security.

The party believes that the current inheritance tax regime and capital gains fairly cover the sector adequately.

We view the proposal as a distraction from proper reform of the system of tax rebates, allowances and exemptions which would yield sustainable revenue to meet the government budget deficit.

The Liberal Party NEC

An NHS free at the point of delivery

The Liberal Party re-affirm its commitment to an NHS free at the point of delivery.

Whilst we fully accepted that the NHS is almost unique in its delivery of frontline services, it should be noted that other countries have delivered public health provision, often through private insurance without restricting the access to medical care.

We believe that whilst the NHS does require an increase in funding in the short term, urgent reform to its management, priorities and better preventative medicine offer the most effective way forward.

The party believes that the private sector can offer resources to address the long waiting lists in the NHS, but its role is secondary to the provision of accessible public health.

The Liberal Party NEC

Change of party name. descriptor and the adoption of diamond emblem

1. Name Change. Change the name of the party from 'The Liberal Party' to 'Liberal Party'. I think that is neater and it would also mean we would be further up the list in proportional representation systems as used in Scottish Parliamentary elections.

2. Description Change. Add 'Scottish Liberals' as a description. That will appeal to Scottish liberal Lib Dem voters.

3. Emblem. I think we need an emblem that is immediately recognisable as Liberal. The orange diamond with the word 'Liberal' across it on a black band would work. The shape is ours from pre-merger days. The Lib Dems have not registered the shape. They have erred badly in that regard and I think we should move on that. I like the starburst, but it is a bit dated. The torch was used by the Conservatives.

Allan Steele and the NEC

Policy Development Document - What is the most important issue affecting the country today? - HOUSING

Promoted by the NEC, Peter White and Kim Milward – **Appendix A**

European Convention on Human Rights(ECHR).

The Liberal Party recognising most of the controversial rulings from the European courts have been the application of article 8, the right to a family life, that the UK should seek reform of article 8 and explicitly curtail any judgements that criminals and terrorists should not be able use article 8 as a basis to avoid responsibility and consequences of their own actions, that the UK should have a clear human rights act which gives the UK governments rights and responsibility to protect our own citizens.

Cllr Steve Radfiord and the NEC

Amendment

Line 4-5 to read

explicitly curtail any judgements that criminals and terrorists should be able use article 8 as a basis to avoid responsibility and

Stephen Graham

Parole for all those under an Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) Order

The Liberal Party calls for a review of the sentences of all those still incarcerated after being served a Public Protection (IPP) Order when sentenced.

Whilst repealed in 2012, no systematic effort has been made to reviews sentences or offer probation hearings to many of those incarcerated.

After protracted periods in custody, many of those incarcerated have developed long-term mental health issues which require long-term rehabilitation in the community.

The Liberal Party NEC

Reform of the Single Justice Procedure

The Party calls for reform to the single Justice Procedure used to fast-track cases in UK magistrates' courts.

The process is used to prosecute a range of minor offences including transport fare evasion, TV licence breaches, speeding and vehicle tax offenses.

The failure to forward mitigating details to organisations prior to the laying of charges has resulted in many criminal convictions which were not in the public interest.

This extends to a potential 75000 rail fare convictions nationally which were wrongly processed under the Single Justice Procedure.

We believe the magistrates services should be fully funded to allow for all cases to be held in person if requested and for the service to be sufficient funded to re-open the 160 closed magistrates' courts.

The Liberal Party NEC

The reinstatement of a standard £2 adult bus fare

This conference supports the reinstatement of a standard £2 adult bus fare, to encourage public transport use and speed loading.

Duran O'Dwyer & the NEC.

The provision of free pre-school childcare

This conference does not consider the provision of free pre-school childcare for longer hours than the typical primary school week an efficient or sensible use of public funds; and wishes to replace our current policy of:

“All children aged 2, 3, 4 & 5 – means tested, will qualify for up to 35 hours a week, 48 weeks a year of free childcare:

- The party will also increase the funding for these free hours to cover the actual cost of nursery provision.
- Would only be applicable to anyone earning less than £50,250.
- Would be available to all UK citizens and legally resident non-citizens (who aren't entitled to claim from another country).”

With:

“All children aged 2, 3, 4 & 5 – means tested, will qualify for up to 31 hours a week of free childcare:

- The party will also increase the funding for these free hours to cover the actual cost of nursery provision.
- Would only be applicable to anyone earning less than £50,250.
- Would be available to all UK citizens and legally resident non-citizens (who aren't entitled to claim from another country).”

Duran O'Dwyer & the NEC.

Ukraine Independence Day August 2025

Today Is Ukraine Independence Day, so it is most appropriate to pass comment on the current state of negotiations.

It appears that the Russian Federation is rapidly rowing back on any compromises floated in Alaska.

It was always realistic they would oppose Ukraine joining NATO but now demanding they have a veto on any security guarantees is about leaving Ukraine helpless to further aggression.

The second aspect which should alarm us all is the further surrender of the 20% of the Donbass they do not currently occupy. This is an area of the size of Florida and has a string of cities that form a natural defensive line using higher terrain.

If this land was surrendered it would be like when the allies surrendered the Sudetenland to Nazi Germany - it handed over the natural higher ground and defensible locations allowing the Germans to later just drive in almost unchallenged.

Unless the West reject the current Russian gameplan and see it for what it is, we will be creating the foundations for a total conquest of Ukraine something Russian has always made it is their clear objective.

Cllr Steve Radford Leader of The Liberal Party

Liberal Party Policy changes

Transport

Motoring/E-Scooters

Remove speed limits item where it proposes an increase in the speed limit on motorways to 80mph

Law & Order

Reform the Single Justice Procedure to enable all defendants to request a magistrate's court hearing.

International

We support a Kurdish autonomous area within the Middle East region.

Law & Order

Prohibit the payments of ransoms to hackers who install malware on computer systems. This would apply to both the public and private sector and would cover UK listed companies and foreign owned subsidiaries within the UK jurisdiction.

Business

Compel UK pensions companies to invest 3.5% income in the UK via the national investment bank.

Net Zero – resolve conflict

Miscellaneous

One paragraph says "Abolition of Net Zero policies and targets" while near bottom of screen says "legislate for a green new deal to tackle the climate emergency, with £20Billion being spent annually to transition to net zero by 2050"

Proposal

"legislate for a green new deal to tackle the climate emergency, with sufficient investment to transition to net zero by 2040".

Danny Clarke and the NEC

Appendix A

What is the most important issue affecting the country today? - HOUSING

A proposal for a letter to be sent or presented to all residential households / voters across the whole country including media. Red = costing.

£650,000

What is the most important issue affecting the country today? -
HOUSING

Housing – why do the big building firms only build 150,000 homes a year? Because they are not interested in smaller projects. Small works should only be carried out by local builders, making them less dependent on big companies to offer them the contracts.

How many buildings are empty in the UK at present that could be repaired or converted ? It is not only houses or homes but some shops too. An estimated one million. These small building works could and should be carried out by smaller British builders registered with HMRC.

Why are there a million properties empty in the UK?

- Deliberately empty?
- Some need restoration
- Some because of tax avoidance?
- Some in the Council's care cannot be repaired. For example, I heard that six houses were given away in Liverpool because the council could not repair them.

I want your help in order to get this solved. As you know, we have the Land Registry, which has details of every property in the UK. The

information there could be used by dividing them into three main groups.

- Exempt: churches, mosques, hospitals, schools and other public places.
- Those owned by foreign nationals
- Those owned by UK residents.

It is essential that all such properties currently with planning permission be released into the scheme immediately, with builders given just three months' notice of this proposed insistence.

We will set up a special housing committee in Parliament with funds to organise the scheme and send out the letters and media communications within a set time.

£24 billion

Lottery style Prize Fund of 1M for any member of the public who can point out empty, wasted properties near them. They need to give us a telephone number! If they point out an empty property, their name goes into the lottery.

£1M +

Further, it is clear, old ways of dealing with valuations are useless. A new system of Land Tax applicable to all of us needs to be set up. This will reduce the rates by approximately 10 percent.

Businesses should be supported with Business Relief. Anyone who owns a property in the UK will be obliged to pay this Land Tax unless exempt as above. Certain exemptions will apply as above.

With this scheme, under no circumstances, should any farmland be used for anything but farming. No compulsory purchases should be necessary. This scheme would not include farm properties. Farm owners should apply, in the usual way, to their local council for planning permissions for their own building plans.

I am proposing that half of these properties are sold and half are used for rentals.

This system needs to be set up urgently.

We can do it together!

Peter White and Kim Milward