

Motions Passed at the 140th Liberal Party Assembly



**4th October 2025
Grand Hotel Scarborough**

Awards & Presentations

Cllr Paul Holmes from Cornwall.

This year marks 60 years since he joined the party and 54 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, and a councillor for 14 years.

The Labour Governments first year in power – A lost year

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 increasing 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.

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.

The Liberal party calls for the raising of the family farm inheritance tax exemption to a level sufficient to cover the vast majority of family farms.

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.

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 better preventative medicine, education and social prescribing are a better way forward

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The party believes that the private sector can offer resources to address the long waiting lists in the NHS, and we should restore the charitable status of private healthcare.

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 be able use article 8 as a basis to avoid the 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.

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.

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 or online if requested by both parties.

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.

Ukraine Independence Day 24th August 2025

Today(24th August 2025) 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.

Liberal Party Assembly Emergency Motion – Recognition of a Palestinian State

The Liberal Party welcomes the British government's decision to recognise Palestine as a state and we reiterate our call for international recognition of a viable Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank.

This declaration must be followed by a permanent seat at the UN and an invitation to join the Commonwealth after consultation has been completed.

The party views the Israeli government's actions in the West Bank as undermining any viable Palestinian state by its endorsement of settler violence and illegal settlements.

The recent Israeli bombing of a Hamas negotiation team in Qatar is a violation of an assigned safe space in a sovereign territory.

The ongoing Israeli offensive in Gaza has long gone beyond what is required to protect the Israeli state. Its actions now amount to a deliberate policy of the destruction of Palestinian society and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian areas which is a war crime under international law.