

Liberal News

Autumn 2025



Leaders address



Whilst the government has a public debt crisis, they continue to press ahead with a digital ID scheme. Who will pay for it, us the taxpayers or small businesses who are already suffering?

It will not be compulsory, for now, but how long before it is? Why do we need an extra form of ID when driving licenses and passports are already sufficient, and how could digital ID be abused in the future?

We see the news from Moscow where people are being dragged off the metro and sent to the frontline of a war zone using digital recognition ID. We may assume this can't happen in a democracy, but when we look at the US, where ICE agents are pulling people off the streets and deporting them, we see how digital ID could play a chilling role in speeding up this process.

So how do we resolve the issue of illegal immigration in the UK? We argue that reform of the convention's Article 8 is the answer. At the latest Liberal Party Assembly, Deputy Leader Allan Steele gave us a clear view of Article 8, i.e. the right to a family life, and that the government is failing to restrict judges going outside the boundaries beyond what the primary legislation outlines.

We call for an urgent review of how Article 8 is being used and abused rather than undermining our human rights framework. The calibre of our debate and the ability of every member to influence policy and priorities is what makes us The Liberal Party.

- **Steve Radford**

Rainbow Toffees Community Awards in Liverpool

Cllr Steve Radford supported the Rainbow Toffees Awards at Liverpool Central Library as Liberal Party leader.

Among the award winners were charity helpers in the fields of mental health, homelessness and LGBT campaigning.



Local News

Liberal councillors are working for their local communities up and down Great Britain.

We are pleased to hear that Cllr Joe Dunne in Liverpool has accepted a position as a substitute member on the Local Government Association (LGA) Children, Young People and Families Committee.

This committee plays a key role in shaping national policy and supporting councils across the country on issues that matter most to children, young people and families.

Our party leader Cllr Steve Radford as Chairman of the Liverpool City region Overview Committee attended the launch of the LCR Growth Plan at the University of Liverpool.

This looks at key issues for areas of potential growth in the economy such as health and life sciences, digital and creative industries and some of the established sectors like maritime and tourism.

Cllr Fran Oborski MBE has been nominated and is a finalist in the “Living Legend” category in the LGIU Councillor of the Year Awards. The award winners will be announced at a presentation in The Guildhall, London on 18 November 2025.

Cllr Paul Holmes has been involved in the campaign for Cornwall to be granted fifth nation status, as well as seeking funding for name plates for seven historical roads in his parish.

The Liberal Party Leader and NEC Elections 2025

Following this Autumn’s internal elections, we are pleased to confirm that Cllr Steve Radford has been reappointed party leader.

The NEC has been re-elected as follows:

Kayed Al-Haddad (Treasurer), Cllr Fran Oborski MBE, Cllr Shazu Miah, Allan Steele (Deputy Leader), Nick Evans, Stephen Graham (Secretary to the NEC), Danny Clarke, Christopher Eccleston (Membership Secretary), Cllr Billy Lake, Chris Ash, Cllr Charles Shaw (Chair of the NEC), Duran O’Dwyer, Alan Tormey, Cllr Mike Potter, Sean Weaver, Cllr Roy Collins, Tinashe Chipawe, Cllr Andrew Macgregor, Brian Blundell.

Daniel Wood has been re-appointed as party President.

Assembly round-up



The Liberal Party met at the Grand Hotel in Scarborough for the 140th Assembly, the morning after Storm Amy had passed through.

The venue was a Victorian Grade II listed building and those who stayed at the venue were impressed with the grand design, comfortable rooms and impressive view over the bay and deep sandy beach.

The party discussed the progress of the government after its first year, the interpretation of the ECHR, parole for all those under an Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) Order and reform of the Single Justice Procedure.

The Assembly was grateful for the input from members with valuable insight into farming, land and water management, the NHS and the ECHR.

Liberal Party Motions debated at Assembly

An NHS free at the point of delivery

The Liberal Party re-affirms its commitment to an NHS free at the point of delivery. Whilst we fully accept 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 access to medical care.

We believe that better preventative medicine, education and social prescribing are a better way forward. 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.

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 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 call for the raising of the family farm inheritance tax exemption to a level sufficient to cover the vast majority of family farms.

The Liberal Party response to the English Devolution White Paper



The Liberal Party views the impending local government reorganisations, outlined by the government in their white paper English Devolution released on 16 December 2024, with considerable disquiet.

The government's proposed reform of local government is talking about devolving powers whilst proposing a massive centralisation of powers away from local communities.

Our discussion document on the proposals can be found in the Liberal Library section of the party website, liberal.org.uk.

Liberal News Apology

Apologies to Cllr Fran Oborski MBE for the editing mistake in the previous edition of Liberal News.

We have amended the copy of Liberal News accessible on the party website, liberal.org.uk

Jim Halcrow RIP

We are sad to learn that James (Jim) Halcrow, who was a long time Liberal member in Scotland, passed away on 25 July.

Jim used to be a regular at our assemblies held in Morecambe and Wolverhampton. He was our returning officer for NEC elections for many years and an active participant in assemblies.

We have sent our condolences to his family.