

# Liberal News

Spring 2026



## Leaders address - A post-Trump Trade War

We should consider both the economic and political implications and opportunities following the Trump Trade Wars. London has lost its position as the second global banking centre in recent years to that of the US.



With the US becoming profoundly unstable, many countries and multinationals trading in dollars are looking to pull out. Talks between Canadian, Australian and New Zealand central banks offer a chance to reboot London as a global trading centre.

The UK has been dependent on American investment and trade, especially for us in Merseyside. Trump may not be alone in seeking to utilise American leverage almost self destructively. Vice President JD Vance is clearly of a similar mindset.

Trump's tariffs are driving Canada to look to other partners to purchase rare elements and to trade in technology, components and energy. This is an ideal opportunity for the UK. We should expedite the ability of our qualified workforce to move between countries with mutual recognition of qualifications.

American companies whose supply chains have been disrupted by bouncing tariffs are relocating to Canada. We should look at trade investment packages to attract them to the UK, whether in finance, science or the health sector.

**- Cllr Steve Radford**

## Stop press! Resumption of May local elections in England

We are pleased to see that the suspension of local elections covering over 4 million electors across England has now been lifted, as the government faced a High Court challenge.

We viewed the suspension of local elections in May with grave concern. Electors across the country would not have been allowed to express their view on their local representatives, nor the forced reorganisation of local government abolishing many district councils.



The issues within local government are of the government's own making, but they acted as a convenient excuse to limit the expected losses at the ballot box which the government fears.

As ever we remain keen to speak with likeminded liberal and independent candidates wishing to represent their communities. Doing so should not be at the convenience of government, but a democratic right every 4 years.

## The Liberal Party at the Scottish Parliament election in May



The Liberal Party is finalising plans to contest the West Scotland list election for the Scottish Parliament elections for the devolved administration in Holyrood.

The election in West Scotland allows for the election of 10 constituency MSPs and an additional 7 regional MSPs from a closed list of parties contesting the election in that region.

Our efforts will be spearheaded by Allan Steele and Kayed Al-Haddad in the Glasgow area, and we are envisaging using the Royal Mail free delivery service to deliver a leaflet to the electorate showing we remain a contender in regional politics.

Our regional representatives can be contacted via [thescottishliberalparty@gmail.com](mailto:thescottishliberalparty@gmail.com)

## New emblems for The Liberal Party on ballot papers



We are pleased to reveal our new party ballot emblems which are shown above with the existing starburst emblem. They mark a return to the old Liberal diamond. We are currently working towards registering these with the Election Commission.

Those who wish to use the old starburst emblem are free to do so, as we have retained that registration with the Electoral Commission.

## London contact for May's elections



Nick Evans has kindly offered to act as co-ordinator for this May's elections in London. Please reach out to him if you are interested in becoming a candidate.

He can be contacted as follows: [liberalpartylondon@gmail.com](mailto:liberalpartylondon@gmail.com)

All 32 London borough councils are up for re-election this May,

## Restrictions on access to trial by jury

The Liberal Party has circulated a policy discussion document on the decision by the home secretary David Lammy to restrict access to a trial by a jury of your peers.

This is a system of justice which has endured for centuries, but is now considered an inconvenience by a home secretary who in opposition fully supported it as part of the 2017 'Lammy Review' into discrimination within the policing and criminal justice systems in the UK.

We believe that both the courts system, and those who practise within it should be properly funded to deliver prompt and effective justice. Justice delayed is justice denied, and many courts are now listing cases to be heard in years not months.

Our proposals include:

The appointment of an additional 20 Circuit Judges to sit on criminal cases with the selection process commencing immediately, such that all such judges are in post and sitting within the next 12 months.

The appointment of up to 50 additional Recorders to sit exclusively on criminal cases.

The retention of the 3 current 'nightingale' Crown Courts (Croydon, Cirencester and Chichester) beyond their proposed closure date in March 2026.

The reduction in the number of jurors to 7 in cases which do not concern grave crimes (in which cases juries of 12 members would continue), such a provision having effect for the remainder of this parliament.



# Liberal Party response to the UK flu outbreak

The Liberal Party recognises the serious impact this flu outbreak is having on families, communities, and our NHS. At a time when households are already struggling with rising costs, illness only adds to the strain.

Our response is rooted in practical support and community resilience:

- **Financial relief for families:** By raising the tax threshold to £20,000, we ensure working people keep more of their income. This helps families afford essentials like heating, food, and medicine during times of illness.
- **Community wellbeing:** We will strengthen local networks so vulnerable residents — the elderly, those living alone, and families in need — are not left behind. Community-driven solutions are at the heart of our politics.
- **Public safety and infrastructure:** Investment in healthier homes, including retrofitting and solar energy, reduces household costs and creates safer living environments. A resilient community is better able to withstand health crises.
- **Clear communication:** We oppose unnecessary digital ID schemes that risk excluding vulnerable groups. Instead, we champion accessible, plain-language health messaging so every resident knows how to protect themselves and their families.

Alan Tormey, Liberal Party Spokesperson for the Environment and Energy, said:

“This flu outbreak is a reminder that public health is inseparable from community wellbeing. By easing financial pressures, empowering local networks, and ensuring clear, accessible communication, we can help families get through this period together.”

## The Liberal Voice! Podcast

Kayed Al-Haddad is hosting this new podcast series.

The show is designed to encourage debate, dialogue and discussion, most notably on the topic of Liberalism. Kayed will be hosting people from various walks of life but all who subscribe to the Liberal philosophy.

The first recording was made in January and features Liberal Party leader Cllr Steve Radford from Liverpool as the first guest. Recordings will be available via our YouTube channel, The Liberal Party UK. We hope you enjoy the show and please feel free to subscribe and tell as many people as you can about the podcast.