

**Motions Passed at the 141st
Liberal Party
Assembly**



**10th October 2026
The Royal Clifton Hotel,
Southport**

Awards & Presentations

The party held a minutes silence in remembrance of Cllr Paul Holmes who passed away in August 2026. His contribution to Liberalism in Cornwall is much appreciated.

Kayed Al-Haddad made a presentation of a gift to Allan Steele WS in appreciation for him standing in May's Scottish regional elections. A second gift will be passed onto Cllr Andrew MacGregor.

Labours War on Business- A Better Deal for Private Business

Whilst the Labour Government cannot be held entirely responsible for the nations current economic situation, during its time in office it has shown a contempt towards business, and those who wish to better themselves through their own efforts to create wealth and prosperity.

We believe that to promote economic activity, prosperity and employment the government should:

Repeal the £22 billion increase in NI tax on employers.

Reduce business rates to support the long-term viability of businesses in all sectors, not just hospitality.

Business rates should reflect a businesses' costs within the community, not a source of revenue to fund local council services which should come from Land Value Taxation(LVT) supplemented by a reformed property tax.

Reduce council parking charges in areas only where it is known to inhibit passing trade.

Increase the VAT threshold for small business to £150k to reduce bureaucracy and red tape.

The minimum wage for young people should be at a level which encourages their employment and at the same time encourage young people to seek employment.

Review aspects of the Employments Right Act 2025 to encourage employers to recruit staff.

The licensing of HMO and Children's Homes

The Liberal Party call for the proper enforcement and licensing of Houses of Multiple Occupation(HMOs) and children's homes.

In the last 4 years Liverpool has seen a 240% increase in the creation of such properties, and the city planning department has struggled to regulate and properly license these.

There have been instances in Liverpool where unregistered children's homes have only come to light after medical emergencies, whilst Liverpool City Council has knowingly placed children in unregistered children's homes.

Whilst a HMO may be suitable for students or those looking for short term lets, they are not suitable for long-term occupation, and their proliferation changes the character of local communities.

Their increase also reduced the availability of properties for local families to move into reducing local links and connections within communities.

Our concern is to prioritise quality accommodation and sustainable communities.

Reform of The Triple Lock for Pensions

We recognise the need to review the triple lock in order to avoid rising public debt. Rising public debt and the consequential increase in interest rates which force up cost to businesses new and home owners. We believe lower earning pensioners should benefit from an overdue rise in tax thresholds to enable them take more earning home.

The Provision of Social Housing in New Build Developments

The Liberal Party believes local government should be allowed to use the section 106 developers contribution to fund council houses and social housing as well as improvements to local services.

This will allow council house provision to be better aligned with local needs.

The Liberal Party Supports Small Abattoirs

The Liberal Party supports the retention of small abattoirs, and to ensure their Food Standards Agency fees remain low, so they can survive.

In 1990, there were 2500 abattoirs, today there are just 203 and 40% of those are at risk of closing. An estimated 43% of farmers can't sell meat locally anymore as animals now have to travel 30 to 60 miles instead of 10 to be processed. Food standards agency fees are up 17.7%, while a 90% discount to small abattoirs is threatened with five closed in 2024 alone.

When a local Abattoir closes

- Your local butcher loses supply

- Small farmers can't complete

- You lose access to local traceable meat

- Animal welfare will suffer

- Big industrial meat processors will win

Government is in effect blocking access to local food

Action needs to be taken and we demand permanent protection for small Abattoirs.

Once these abattoirs are gone, they are not coming back.

Abattoirs are working at full capacity. At present, we cannot afford to let any to be closed.

Civil Defence in the UK – Referred back to the NEC for redrafting

UK Support for the Residents of the Falklands Islands and Gibraltar

The Liberal Party robustly supports the right of British territories especially the Falklands islands and Gibraltar to self-determination and to remaining British.

We believe that the Argentinian and Spanish authorities have regular agitated on the sovereignty of these territories, and we welcome the recent agreement on the freedom of movement between Spain and Gibraltar as a means of normalising relations.

The US government has been singular bi-partisan in its support for British sovereignty over the Falklands. This stance actively encourages Argentinian in its claims as a regular distraction to their own economic troubles.

We believe that both overseas territories should be able to send elected representatives to sit in a reformed House of Lords to allow their citizens a degree of representation.

The US Effect on the Established International Order

The Liberal Party recognising the unreliability of the USA as a defence and trading partner.

Its pursuit of sovereignty over Greenland and its aggressive trade position with Canada has turned away long-standing allies.

Liberals recognise that the UK needs to reassess international relationships to make us less reliant on the USA and that strengthening other world relationships is in our fundamental interests both long and short term.

Therefore the UK should positively respond to the leadership of Mark Carney and Canada in building pan Canada UK European defence logistics and reducing trade barriers.

The UK should take a more proactive role increasing trade and other global initiatives across the Commonwealth.

Support for High Energy Users in Business in the UK – Referred back to the NEC for redrafting

Emergency Assembly Motion

The Opportunity to Establish a Cadet Unit at Every Public Secondary School

The Liberal Party calls for the establishment of a dedicated relationship between state schools and cadet units. It believes that all young people should have the opportunity voluntarily join such a unit.

Rationale:

In an age of increasing international tension, the country must be ready to defend itself. That starts with changing mindsets.

Cadet forces give young people an opportunity to engage in an Armed Forces environment where they can learn discipline skills self-respect and patriotism as well as relevant technical skills and team working.

This would not involve mandatory involvement in such units and should supplement not replace youth clubs and other community activities for young people.

Such activities should count towards entrance points for university admission and support for the scheme should be included in the Governments youth program.