

THE LIBERAL PARTY GENERAL ELECTION 2024 MANIFESTO



Stronger Communities - Opportunities for All

liberal.org.uk

Britain is broken and we need real change. Formed in 1859, The Liberal Party is as committed as ever to being an active driver for change.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY LEADER – CLLR STEVE RADFORD

“I would like to thank all Liberal Party members and I am grateful for the level of support to carry on this duty to lead the party into the General election.

Campaigning under the banner “Stronger Communities- Opportunities for All” we will be at the forefront calling for greater devolution and sustainable financing for local government, a dynamic economy where small businesses and community enterprises are encouraged and streamline our tax and benefits system that strangles people progressing themselves”.

Preamble to the Constitution of The Liberal Party

The Liberal Party exists to build a Liberal Society in which every citizen shall possess liberty, property and security, and none shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. Its chief care is for the rights and opportunities of the individual and in all spheres it sets freedom first.

Stronger Communities

We need a fairer funding scheme for local government to allow higher taxation on the wealthiest plus greater support for communities suffering from economic deprivation.

We believe in a federal United Kingdom consisting of Parliaments for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and Regional Assemblies for England.

The role of Police Commissioners should be abolished and replaced with greater community participation.

Opportunities for All - Grow the Economy

The UK has vast inequality in wealth, health and economic opportunity.

Rather than saddle students with frightening levels of debt, we should get rid of many of the exemptions for wealth tax and use the wealth of one generation to invest in the human capital of the next.

We have unacceptable high levels of people of working age claiming unemployment and sickness benefit. We need to encourage more people into work and study. By raising the tax threshold to £20,000, we would take millions of low paid out of the tax benefits trap. This would encourage more people into work and grow the economy.

We need to increase the cap on people studying or working from 16 hours per week to at least 24 hours per week.

We need more people with low skills levels to earn and study. Trapping people on benefits is to trap them into poverty.

We need to simplify the tax benefits schemes so people can take control of their lives.

We need to encourage people to be able to start a business without being caught up in red tape and offer them the tailored support to reduce the annual failure rate of small businesses

Britain must stop importing poverty through mass immigration of unskilled refugees and illegal immigrants.

The current levels of immigration are aggravating our housing shortage, putting pressure on the environment and resource. Worse, it is creating alienated communities and heightening social tensions in the country.

Those seeking asylum who have a compelling case should be allowed to work and contribute to the economy, reducing the burden on the state as well as encouraging integration at an early stage.

Housing for All

With soaring mortgage and rental costs, plus a national housing shortage, many young people are unable to lay the foundations of their own family life.

We need a major push to increase social housing especially in rural communities to ensure we have stable and economically viable communities.

Excess charges to leaseholders should be controlled.

Section 21 no fault evictions should be stemmed and sitting tenants given protection.

Education for All

Our education system needs greater devolution to communities able to dovetail training and skills to local community needs.

Training boards should be established for each industry to increase skills for industry and commerce.

The Ofsted system needs to be replaced with a fairer system.

For example, communities with a strong tourist sector should be able to grow the skills their communities need. Uniformity is the danger to social and economic growth.

Fight for Freedom

Freedom of speech is being undermined with people increasingly reluctant to express any views that are deemed unfashionable. Hate crime should be as it was originally intended.

Politicians of faith are increasingly having their own personal beliefs challenged to prevent their involvement in public life.

Women's Rights

We support the WASPI women in their claim for compensation for the adjustment to the state pension age which has left many financially disadvantaged.

We support the Amendment of the EA2010 to clarify that "sex" means biological sex and excluding biological males from women's sports, prisons, shelters, rape centres and all women single sex safe spaces.

We oppose self ID for the purpose of gender recognition and therefore we will maintain Section 35 to stop the Gender Recognition Reform Bill from entering into force in Scotland.

Health for All

The NHS will never be able to cope with demand for staff when we invest so little in developing skills in our own workforce.

We need significant grants to help young people develop medical skills with a claw back if they leave the country after initial training.

The closure of smaller GP surgeries is something we have campaigned against. We wish to see communities have better access to primary care.

Saving the Environment

New estates and buildings being built should have to include solar panels where viable as part of the planning process

Greater rigour should be placed to prevent natural flood plains being built on and better utilisation of brown field sites.

We would look to short term, zero carbon nuclear schemes to cover the green energy transition but remain committed to the long-term phasing out of the use of our current nuclear technology and support the continued research and development of nuclear fusion.

The privatisation of water companies has been a disaster with profits being sent abroad and our rivers being polluted.

We need to divert more traffic on our rail networks, but often local connections are missing many communities.

A strong devolution package with emphasis on rural communities should provide investment into local networks.

We need a major push on public education on the need for recycling.

The UK in the World

With the prospect of an isolationist USA president, Europe needs to plan for a robust defence, including logistics armaments production, to deter further attacks from Russia.

Ukraine is on the front line for the defence of democracy, and we should not falter in our support.

Western interventions in the Middle East have been disastrous for the very countries we were supposed to be assisting.

To say we support a two-state solution but then decline to recognise the Palestinian Authority is hypocritical, and we should join Spain, Norway and others in recognising Palestine and put more pressure on Israel to withdraw the illegal settlements on the West Bank.

Open Government

We support the abolition of the House of Lords and its replacement with a more streamline senate elected by the regions and nations of the UK, including representation for Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories.

Both the HIV blood and the sub post masters scandals show the utter failure of government to look after ordinary people and treat them with contempt. We support a duty of candour legislation.

We need the Information Commissioner's procedures to become more accessible.

Promoted by Stephen Graham on behalf of the Liberal Party, 12 Dayworth Mews, Lundy Lane, Reading, RG30 2RR.