

The Liberal Democrats' General Election Manifesto

2017

"A long-term stable economy requires us to invest in people, innovation and infrastructure"

Britain at home

Economic principles

£100bn package of additional infrastructure development, investing in homes, broadband, road and rail, and schools and hospitals

End the 1% cap on pay rises in the public sector

Will follow two fiscal rules: a **cyclically-adjusted budget from 2019-20**; and **national debt will be reduced as a percentage of GDP year on year**

Taxation and welfare

Reverse previous Government's tax cuts including: **Corporation Tax**; **Capital Gains Tax** cuts; Capital Gains Tax extended reliefs; the **Marriage Allowance**; and the raise of the **Inheritance Tax threshold**

An immediate **1p rise on the basic, higher and additional rates of Income Tax** to raise £6bn additional revenue to fund the NHS and social care services

In the longer term, **commission development of a dedicated health and care tax**, possibly based on a reform of National Insurance contributions

Legalise and tax **cannabis**

Encourage adoption of **'good employer' kitemark**: paying living wage; no unpaid internships; and name-blind recruitment

Modernise employment rights

Expand **Shared Parental Leave**

Maintain **pension triple lock**

Review the **Business Rates system**, lessening burden on SMEs and ensuring high streets remain competitive

Corporate governance

Right to request shares given to staff in large companies

Staff representation on remuneration committees and right for employees of a listed company to be represented at board level

Reform **fiduciary duty and company purpose rules**

Reduce the **reporting requirement for disclosure of shareholdings** to 1%

Require binding and public votes of board members on **executive pay policies**

Democratic reform

Further **devolution** of decision-making and revenue raising powers to English regions and devolved nations

Drastically **reduce the powers of Ministers** to interfere in local government

Introduce **votes at 16** for all elections and referendums

Introduce the **Single Transferable Vote** for local government and parliamentary elections

Reform the **House of Lords**

Cap donations to political parties

Cancel the **boundary review**

Strengthen and expand the **lobbying register** and prohibit MPs from accepting paid lobbying work

"Britain's relationship with its neighbours is stronger as part of the European Union"

Britain in the world

Brexit

Protect Britain's Place in Europe and fight a hard Brexit:

- British people to have final say on the final Brexit deal through second referendum
- Protection of rights for EU and UK citizens
- Maintain membership of the single market and customs union
- Protect Freedom of Movement with any restrictions taking account of vital importance of EU workers to British economy, including public service
- Protect Erasmus+ and other EU-funded schemes which increase opportunities for young people
- Defend social rights and equalities currently based in EU law
- Maintain environmental standards
- Maintain maximum law enforcement co-operation
- Protect support for domestic industries, such as farming, and deprived areas
- City of London to retain full rights in EU financial markets
- Campaign against reductions in science and research funding
- Retain tourist benefits such as roaming charges, pet passports, and European Health Insurance Card
- Respect the interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the people of Gibraltar

International Trade

Work with **sectors** which are critical to Britain's ability to trade internationally

Introduce **Sustainable Development Goals audits** of new trade, investment and development deals, reviewing the impact of the deal on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership

Global Collaboration

Support **international institutions** like UN and NATO

Spending **0.7%** of gross national income on **aid**

Control arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries

Spend **2% of GDP on defence**

Maintain a **minimum nuclear deterrent**, while leading disarmament efforts internationally

"Liberal Democrats are open and outward-looking"

"We must ensure everyone pays their fair share"

"We believe in a United Kingdom where people have power over their own lives"

"Change the Opposition..."



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“...Change Britain's Future”

2017

Housing & Construction

300,000 homes a year by 2022

£5bn of initial capital for a new British Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank

New Green Buildings Act, with 4 million properties receiving insulation retrofits by 2022

Increase Local Housing Allowance (LHA) in line with average rents in an area; scrap the 'bedroom tax'

10 new garden cities

Lift the borrowing cap on local authorities, equip them with additional powers to oversee housebuilding, and increase the borrowing capacity of housing associations

Ban letting agents fees, cap rental deposits and establish new Help to Rent scheme

Support for homelessness prevention

“Our young people want a world that is clean and green”

Energy & Environment

New legally binding targets to reduce GHG emissions by 80% by 2040 and to zero by 2050

Aim to generate 60% of electricity from renewables by 2030, and oppose fracking

Support for energy storage, smart grid technology, hydrogen technologies, offshore wind, and tidal power (inc. Swansea Bay tidal lagoon), with focus on R&D

Expand community energy schemes, and back new entrants to energy market

New Air Quality Plan

£2bn flood-prevention fund

Zero-Waste Act: new legally binding targets on waste; 5p charge on disposable coffee cups; incentives for businesses to improve resource efficiency; reform regulatory framework for waste collection and landfill

“We have made it a priority to deliver equality between mental health and physical health”

Education

£7bn extra investment in education

Increase Early Years Pupil Premium to £1,000

Support teachers' professional development, and tackle unnecessary workloads by reforming Ofgem inspections and promoting innovation and leadership

Oppose new selective schools and give local authorities proper democratic control over admissions and new schools

Reform the curriculum to help children develop life skills

Extend free school meals to all primary school pupils

Reinstate maintenance grants for poorer students, and carry out a review of higher education finance

Extend high-quality apprenticeships, backed up with new sector-led colleges

“We believe every child deserves a great start in life”

Financial Services

Take forward the recommendations of the House of Lords Select Committee on Financial Exclusion

Require the major banks to fund the creation of a local banking sector dedicated to meeting the needs of local SMEs

Expand the activities of the state-owned British Business Bank, enabling it to perform a more central role in the economy by tackling the shortage of equity capital for growing firms and providing long-term capital for medium-sized businesses

Create a new 'start-up allowance' to cover living costs in first few weeks of starting a business

Reform the Regulatory Policy Committee to remove unnecessary regulation, reduce regulatory uncertainty, and support new markets and investment

Transport and Infrastructure

Continued commitment to HS2, Crossrail and rail electrification

Invest capital in major transport infrastructure: rail freight; Transport for the North Strategy; south-west transport links; Complete East West Rail

New Green Transport Act: diesel scrappage scheme; expand ultra low emission zones; reform vehicle taxation; universal electric vehicle charging points

New rail franchises to include a stronger focus on customers; introduce a rail ombudsman; allow public sector and mutual to bid for franchises; establish government-run companies to take over the running of Southern Rail and Govia Thameslink

Develop strategy airports policy, focused on environmental standards and regional airports

Protect and extend local public transport

Health, Food & Pharmaceuticals

Ring-fenced funding for mental health, with waiting time standards matching those in physical health care

Better integration of health and social care, with budgets pooled in every area by 2020

Cap the cost of social care, and increase support for carers

Protect NHS workforce by reinstating student nurse bursaries, supporting innovation, and protecting whistleblowers, and introduce a National Workforce Strategy to address shortages

Childhood Obesity Strategy, with restrictions on advertising, measures to close loopholes in sugary drinks tax, and mandatory targets on sugar reduction for food and drink producers

Ensure British farming remains competitive, refocusing support towards producing healthy food and public benefits

Technology, Media and Telecommunications

Prioritise Business Rates reforms that recognise the development of the digital economy

Create new 'catapult' centres

Broadband connections and services to be provided before 2020 to have a speed of 2 Gbps or more, with fibre to the premises as standard and unlimited usage by 2020 across the whole of the UK

New network of incubators for tech companies

Build digital skills and retain coding on English national curriculum

Support creative industries through: the Creative Industries Council; tailored industry-specific tax support; modern and flexible patent, copyright and licensing rules; and addressing barriers to finance

Support for the space industry

Leisure, Hospitality & Gambling

Maintain free access to national museums and galleries

Introduce 'safe standing' at football clubs

Protect independence of the BBC, set up a BBC Licence Fee Commission, and maintain Channel 4 in public ownership

Protect sports and arts funding via the National Lottery

Create creative enterprise zones

Examine the available funding and planning rules for live music venues