



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON YOUTH AFFAIRS

This briefing note sets out the Liberal Democrat's policies for the 2015 General Election on a number of issues relevant to young people.

HOUSING

The Liberal Democrats will:

- We want to Increase the rate of house building to 300,000 a year with these homes being built to the Zero Carbon Standard.
- Within the first year of the next Parliament we would publish a long term plan setting out how this will be achieved and appoint a ministerial taskforce on housing to oversee the implementation of the plan. It would, amongst other things, contain proposals for at least ten new 'Garden Cities' in England
- We also want to help social housing providers to build more affordable homes to rent, by providing central government investment and more flexibility within the Housing Revenue Account.
- We would work with housing providers on new models of affordable housing, to sit alongside the traditional social rented sector, including those offering path to ownership for lower income working families.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Liberal Democrats will:

- We have committed to protect the education budget in real terms right through from the early years to age 19.
- Guarantee all teachers in state funded schools are fully qualified or working towards Qualified Teacher Status.
- We aim to establish a twin track approach where every young person is either working towards university or an apprenticeship with both paths having an equal status
- We would introduce a Young Person's Discount Card for all aged 16-21, giving an automatic 2/3rds discount on bus travel helping young people travel for work or training
- We plan a major expansion of high-quality and advanced apprenticeships, offering vocational education on a par with academic qualifications backed up by new sector-led National Colleges

JOBS AND PAY

The Liberal Democrats will:



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- We will complete the job of balancing the budget – on time, in full, and fairly- creating the strong economy fundamental to the creation of new jobs.
- We would invest in training the highly skilled workforce needed for the jobs created by our growing industrial sectors such as motor vehicles, aerospace, low-carbon energy, chemicals, creative industries and more
- We would ask the Low Pay Commission to look at ways of raising the minimum wage without damaging employment opportunities and establish an independent review to consult on how to set a fair Living Wage.
- We would clamp down on abusive practices in relation to zero hours contracts and on those failing to pay the minimum wage.

DEMOCRACY

The Liberal Democrats will:

- Advocate votes at 16 for elections and referenda and we would make it easier to register to vote in schools and colleges.
- We would cap donations to political parties, at £10,000 per person each year, and introduce reforms to prevent undue influence by wealthy interests
- We would reform the House of Lords with a proper democratic mandate and introduce the Single Transferable Vote system for elections to local government and Westminster