

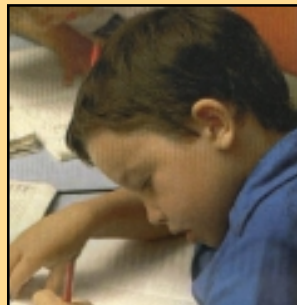
Crime

More police officers on the beat, and greater rights for victims



Education

More teachers, smaller classes - and an end to tuition fees



Fairness

How we'd give pensioners, families and the low paid a better deal



General Election 2001

Manifesto

SUMMARY

For a liberal and democratic Britain

www.libdems.org.uk

A REAL CHANGE FOR REAL CHANGE



by **CHARLES KENNEDY,**
Leader of the Liberal Democrats

THREE SIMPLE WORDS. FREEDOM, JUSTICE, HONESTY. These sum up what the Liberal Democrats stand for.

Freedom – because everybody should have the opportunity to make the most of their life. Justice – because freedom depends on fairness. Honesty – because where fairness has a cost, like investing in schools, hospitals and pensions, we explain how it will be paid for.

Our manifesto sets out our priorities: investing in schools and hospitals to cut class sizes and waiting times; extra police to prevent crime and catch criminals; increasing the basic state pension; and providing free personal care.

In Scotland, where Liberal Democrats are part of the government, we have already guaranteed free personal care. We have also abolished tuition fees, and we want to do this for the rest of the United Kingdom.

We will also recognise the professionalism of teachers, doctors, nurses and the police, valuing their contribution to the community. We believe that they must have the freedom to exercise their professional judgement.

All our policies have a green dimension, a green thread binding together all our thinking. Without steps to preserve our planet for future generations, none of our other policies would have much purpose.

NHS pledge Lib Dems promise more staff and faster treatment



Health is a fundamental freedom. We will prioritise investment to cut waiting times. But we also believe that it is best to improve health by preventing illness, tackling pollution and reducing poverty.

Liberal Democrats will:

- **Cut waiting times** by recruiting 27,500 more nurses, 4,600 more doctors, and 10,250 more professionals allied to medicine.

- Cut waiting times by providing an **additional 10,000 beds.**
- Cut waiting times by retaining more staff through increasing pay for the worst paid NHS staff by an average of **£1000 each per year.**
- Keep people healthy by investing in scanning equipment and **abolishing charges** for dental and eye checks.
- **End** the scandal of long term patients, elderly and disabled people paying personal care costs.

INSIDE: The Liberal Democrat programme for Government **Contact us:** www.libdems.org.uk

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN EUROPE - AND INTERNATIONALLY

Your say in Europe

The European Union brings enormous benefits to Britain. Yet neither Conservative nor Labour Governments have made the most of Britain's potential as a core member of the EU.

Our priorities in Europe are:

- **Let the British people decide** whether we join the Euro, via a referendum
- **Enlargement** of the EU to include the emerging democracies of central and eastern Europe
- **Reform** of the EU's institutions to make them more open, democratic and effective
- **Agree** on a constitutional settlement for Europe to define and limit the powers of the EU
- **Co-operation** with our European Liberal Democrat partners to achieve our aims in these areas



...and the world

Britain can achieve far more by working with others than working alone, to promote peace and freedom throughout the world, combat poverty and disease and tackle global environmental problems.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Promote a foreign policy based on democracy, human rights and good governance
- Seek to make international institutions more able to address global security, trade and environmental issues
- Resist further erosion of Britain's defence capability while co-operating more closely with the country's allies.

The text of the Liberal Democrat Manifesto is available from our website at:

www.libdems.org.uk. Copies are also available in large print and tape from:

Liberal Democrats, 4 Cowley St., London, SW1P 3NB.

Tel: 020 7222 7999 Email: libdems@cix.co.uk

Applicability and Costings

This document contains Federal Liberal Democrat policy, except in areas where policy of the Scottish and Welsh Liberal Democrats applies. Separate manifestos set out our agenda for Scotland and Wales. Guarantees represent our minimum commitment over a five-year Parliament. Our manifesto also sets out policies to be implemented as economic growth allows. Our ambitions are not limited to these, and are set out in other policy documents. A full costing of our programme has been published with this manifesto. Figures included in both are changes to existing Government revenue and spending plans due to our manifesto commitments. Except for specified items, all Departments will work within current spending plans, unless economic growth allows more. Figures presented are calculated on a UK-wide basis to make comparisons with UK-wide figures from central government and other parties. Different priorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland may result in different priorities in practice in the budgetary areas they control.

Invest in education

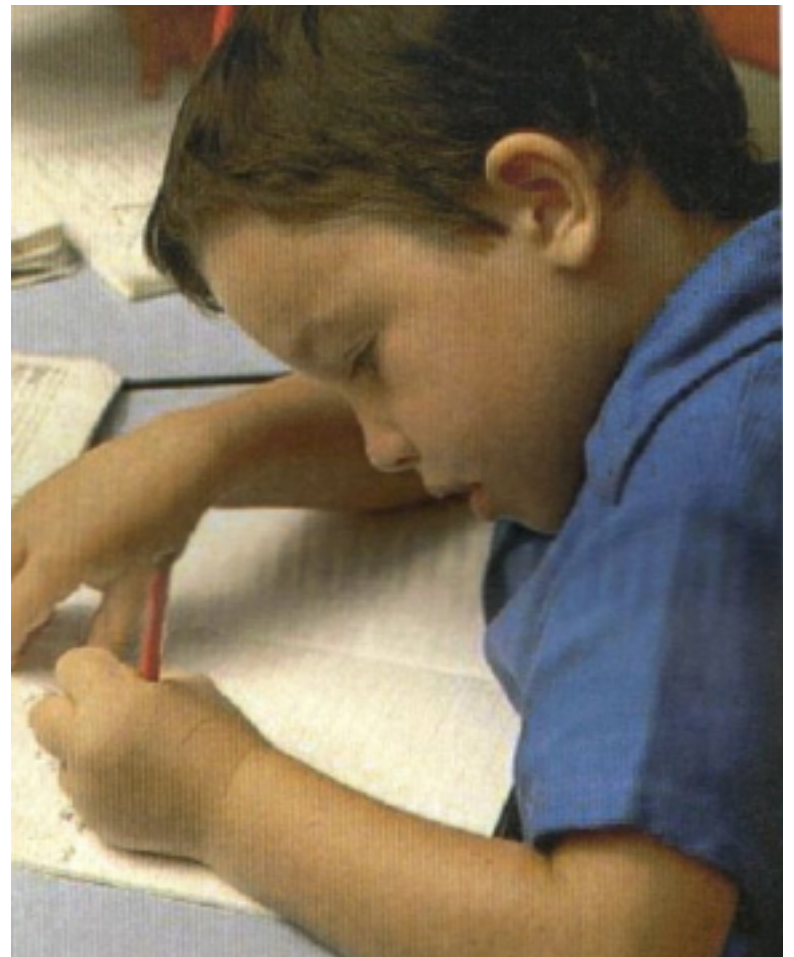
We believe that every child matters.

Education provides the freedom to choose a fulfilling job, the freedom to exploit one's talents to the full, and the freedom to contribute fully to society.

Education is also the key to Britain's future prosperity, and to guarantee it we will fund our extra investment by putting an extra penny on the basic rate of income tax.

Liberal Democrats will:

- **Cut class sizes** on average to 25 for 5-11 year-olds
- **Guarantee a classroom assistant** for every 25 pupils in the 5-7 age bracket
- Recruit **5000 extra** secondary school teachers to reduce class sizes for 11-16 year-olds
- **Increase** funding for books and equipment in schools
- **Cut bureaucracy** in schools and interfere less in the professional judgements of teachers
- **Abolish** university tuition fees
- Entitle 16-24 year olds to **extra funding** for further education fees and to study leave with pay



Green Action

● Learning for a green future

We will increase environmental awareness amongst young people, by encouraging local environmental projects and by teaching sustainability in schools.

● Healthy and safe journeys to school

We will promote the development of Safe

Routes to School, to encourage parents to allow their children to walk or cycle to school in safety rather than driving them.

● Greener school buildings

We will fund a 'Schools 2010' programme to tackle the backlog of school building repairs. The programme would include environmental assessment of buildings.

Cutting crime



Fear of crime blights the lives of many people, particularly the most vulnerable. The state should offer all its citizens equal and adequate protection. Our approach is rooted in the belief that the best way to beat crime in the medium and long term is to have effective policies to tackle its causes.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Recruit **6000 extra** police officers
- **Fund 2000** part-time community officers
- Reinforce the police with a new **Community Safety Force** and by retaining retired officers in a back-up role
- **Cut reoffending** by preparing prisoners adequately for a law-abiding life on their release
- Give **victims greater rights** to be heard in court

Green Action

● Preventing pollution

We will improve enforcement of pollution controls.

We will also use these powers to ensure that biotech companies are liable for any harm caused by GM crops and food.

Green Action

- **Invest in improving public transport** so that people are no longer forced to use their car unnecessarily.
- **Less road building**
Reverse plans for new road building in environmentally sensitive areas.
- **Cleaner and more efficient vehicles**
Promote technologies which improve vehicle efficiency and the use of alternative fuel systems. We will oppose further increases in weight limits for freight vehicles.

Safe, reliable travel



A decent transport system is fundamental to an equitable and environmentally sustainable society. We will work to build an integrated transport system throughout the country that is **safe, reliable and affordable**.

Our policies emphasise reducing problems from pollution and congestion.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Provide **free off-peak local travel** on buses for pensioners and disabled people, and aim for half-price travel at all times for under-19s in full time education
- **Abolish car tax** for drivers of less-polluting vehicles
- Establish **stronger public control** over the railways



Civil liberties are the basis of a genuinely free society. They are essential to a liberal society in which people are enabled to fulfil their potential and make informed choices about their lives. **Liberal Democrats will:**

- **Pass** an Equality Act to outlaw all forms of discrimination
- **Reform the asylum system** so that applicants are dealt with fairly and quickly
- **Extend** Freedom of Information legislation to provide genuinely open administration at all levels of government

Green Action

- **Eradicating fuel poverty**
We will cut fuel bills and reduce pollution by requiring all new housing to meet improved energy and water efficiency standards through the use of environmentally friendly building materials and techniques. We will work with colleagues in Europe to agree zero-rating of VAT on all energy conservation materials within the EU.

Freedom from poverty

Poverty restricts freedom because people without a decent income do not have the opportunities enjoyed by others. More needs to be done for pensioners and those with low incomes to ensure that all in Britain have a better quality of life.

Liberal Democrats will:

- **Boost the basic state pension by:**
 - An extra £5 a week for *all pensioners*;
 - An extra £10 a week for those over 75;
 - An extra £15 a week for those over 80
- Help the lower paid by aiming to reduce taxation for poorer taxpayers

- **Support disabled people** by extending winter fuel allowance payments to the severely disabled
- Protect workers on low incomes by **reviewing the minimum wage** annually
- **Tackle child poverty** with extra money for families on long-term income support

Green Action

- **Reducing waste and promoting recycling**
We'll provide a doorstep recycling collection for every household.
- **Tackle possible dangers of GM crops**
We will work for a moratorium, at an EU level, on commercial growing of genetically modified crops until 2004.
- **Reform planning**
We will ensure that local authority plans incorporate targets for CO₂ emission reductions .
- **Protect green spaces**
We will protect green areas of particular importance or value to the community.

Community Action

We wish to build sustainable communities which provide for the needs of their citizens, enhance lives, and also preserve the environment.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Boost local economies by protecting local services and promoting local innovation
- Support rural employers, farming and fishing



- Revive depressed areas by introducing a one-stop regeneration grant system to distribute funds effectively
- Create incentives for developers to build on brownfield rather than greenfield sites

Making all votes count

Democracy is the guarantee of all our freedoms, but the state of British democracy still leaves much to be desired.

Liberal Democrats want to make government the true servant of the people, and we will develop a political process in which all voices can be heard.

Liberal Democrats will:

- **Reform the voting system** for Westminster so that every vote counts
- **Give Parliament more power** to hold the government to account
- **Devolve more power to the nations and regions** of Britain and to local authorities

Sport and the Arts : opportunities for all

Everyone should have a freedom to explore their talents and experience the talents of others. The arts and sport make a huge contribution to our society. They play an important role in both education and the economy and are a means of promoting social inclusion.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Place the arts at **the heart of school education**
- **Support community sports** plans
- **Promote diversity** in culture, the arts and sport

Freedom to thrive

No Government can deliver freedom without creating a sound and sustainable economy, in which business can thrive, the environment is safeguarded and employees are properly protected, nationally and internationally.

Liberal Democrats will:

- **Create** a competitive and sound economy to deliver prosperity for all
- Enable British Euro entry, subject to the decision of the British people in a **referendum**
- Make taxation and spending policies **clearer and more accountable**. Our policies on education are funded by an extra penny on the basic rate of income tax, our pensions and health policies are funded by a 50p tax rate on earnings above £100,000, and we will make changes to capital gains tax to fund other policies.
- **Strengthen** the independence of the Bank of England



Green Action

- **Greening the budget**
We will ensure that environmental priorities are at the heart of government spending plans.
- **The polluter pays**
We regard it as essential to make a major shift in taxation from 'goods' like wealth creation, which benefit Britain, to 'bads' which are harmful, like pollution.
We also want to support green technology and new environmental industries.



Liberal Democrats are committed to a free market economy in which enterprise thrives.

Competition and open markets are by far the best guarantee of wealth creation. It is the Government's role to ensure the conditions under which innovation and competition can flourish and benefit the greatest number of people.

Protecting consumers and backing business

Liberal Democrats will:

- **Cut business rates** on small businesses by introducing a Business Rates Allowance; and scrap unnecessary business regulations
- **Defend consumers** against power of monopolies
- **Promote innovation** and training in new technology
- **Invest** in a knowledge-based economy through research

Green Action

- **Reducing energy demand** by encouraging Combined Heat and Power schemes.
- **Taxing energy fairly**
The Climate Change Levy is overcomplicated and bureaucratic. We will gradually replace it with a carbon tax.
- **Preserve scarce water resources** by setting tough requirements for water companies to cut leaks.
- **Boosting renewable energy** by requiring a minimum of 10% of the UK's energy to be generated from UK-based renewable energy sources by 2010, increasing by 1% a year thereafter.
- **Phasing out nuclear power**
We will decommission and not replace nuclear power stations as they end their safe operating lives.

You can also visit our website at:
www.libdems.org.uk

'Support a real chance for real change'

Charles Kennedy



To join the Liberal Democrats, or send a donation, return this form to:

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3BR.

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