

# Liberal Democrat Policies In Government



## DELIVERING REAL CHANGE

The agreement between the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives is full of policies that we have campaigned on for years - and now have the opportunity to put into practice.

**We are now going to form a new government.**

More importantly than anything else, we are going to form a new kind of government; I hope this is the start of a new kind of politics I have always believed in. Diverse, plural, where politicians with different points of view find a way to work together to provide good government for the sake of the whole country.

That was what we were asked to do by the people of Britain in the General Election last Thursday and that is what we will deliver.

### fairer taxes and economic reform

- A substantial increase in the personal allowance from April 2011 with a longer term objective of increasing it to £10,000, making further real terms steps each year
- Reform of the banking system, ensuring a flow of lending to businesses and a Banking Levy. An independent commission on separating retail and investment banking
- Capital Gains Tax reform

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### fair politics

- Fixed-term parliaments and a referendum on electoral reform for the Commons
- Power to recall MPs who have engaged in serious wrongdoing
- An entirely or mainly elected Lords on the basis of proportional representation
- Giving Parliament control of its own agenda so that all bills are properly debated
- Enacting the Calman Commission proposals and a referendum on further Welsh devolution
- A statutory register of lobbyists
- Limit on political donations and reform of party funding
- Radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups

## a fair start for children

- Introduce a “pupil premium” to give all children a fair start

## fair pensions

- Restoration of the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011 with a “triple guarantee” that pensions are raised by the higher of earnings, prices or 2.5%
- Phase out the default retirement age and end the rules requiring compulsory annuitisation at 75
- Implement the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman’s recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policyholders

## civil liberties

- Scrap the ID card scheme, the National Identity register, the next generation of biometric passports and the ContactPoint Database
- Outlaw the finger-printing of children at school without parental permission
- Extend the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to provide greater transparency
- Adopt the Scottish approach to stopping retention of innocent people’s DNA on the DNA database
- Defend trial by jury
- Restore rights to non-violent protest
- A review of libel laws to protect freedom of speech
- Safeguards against misuse of anti-terrorism legislation
- Further regulation of CCTV
- Ending of storage of internet and email records without good reason
- A new mechanism to prevent the proliferation of unnecessary new criminal offences
- End the detention of children for immigration purposes

## a fair and sustainable future

- Establish a smart electricity grid and the roll-out of smart meters
- Establish feed-in tariff systems in electricity
- A huge increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion
- Creation of a green investment bank
- The provision of home energy improvement paid for by the savings from lower energy bills
- Retention of energy performance certificates when HIPs are scrapped
- Measures to encourage marine energy
- The establishment of an emissions performance standard that will prevent coal-fired power stations being built unless they are equipped with sufficient CCS to meet the emissions performance standard
- Establish a high-speed rail network
- Cancel the third runway at Heathrow and refuse additional runways at Gatwick and Stansted
- Replace the Air Passenger Duty with a ‘per plane’ duty
- The provision of a floor price for carbon, as well as efforts to persuade the EU to move towards full auctioning of ETS permits
- Make the import or possession of illegal timber a criminal offence
- Promote green spaces and wildlife corridors in order to halt the loss of habitats and restore biodiversity
- Reduce central government carbon emissions by 10 per cent within 12 months
- Increase the target for energy from renewable sources