

**Welsh Liberal
Democrats**

**Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru**



MOTION PROPOSED TO SPRING CONFERENCE 2018

A FAIR, FREE AND LIBERAL WALES

Proposed by: National Policy Committee

Conference notes that:

1. Liberalism is optimistic, hopeful, and believes in the power of people.
2. Liberalism exists to build a fair, free and open society, where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential and determine their own destiny.
3. The protection of the most vulnerable in society and support for those trying to escape deprivation are fundamental objectives for the Liberal Democrats.
4. As Liberal Democrats, we champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals; this should be at the heart of a liberal Wales.
5. Lloyd George's Liberal Government played a crucial role in laying the foundations for the welfare state through the establishment of pensions and the 'People's Budget.'
6. Beveridge was a Liberal MP writing his report during the dark days of WWII as the country imagined a better post-war society.
7. Whilst Beveridge was successful in addressing the five giant evils he outlined, these evils have evolved rather than being eradicated.
 - a. 'Want' – 200,000 children in Wales are living in poverty - 60% of those in homes with parents who work.
 - b. 'Disease' – 800,000 people in Wales living with a long-term illness.
 - c. 'Squalor' – a 30% increase in rough sleeping, and 9,000 people waiting more than 5 years for social housing.
 - d. 'Ignorance' – around 26,000 children at risk of leaving primary school unable to read well.
 - e. 'Idleness' – skill shortages have increased to 23% of all vacancies.
8. The growth of Loneliness to become a sixth evil – half a million people in Wales reporting feeling lonely.
9. Any attempt to solve these six evils must first define what they look like in Wales today.
10. The Welsh Liberal Democrats must adopt, as did Beveridge, a broad approach to tackling social and economic inequality.
11. Brexit will potentially substantially impact every area of Welsh policy, including poverty and the opportunities of current and future generations.
12. We're the oldest political party in Wales and have a proud history of standing up for the forgotten, marginalised and ignored.

13. We need to elect more Welsh Liberal Democrats to every level of government to realise this vision.

Conference believes:

1. In a fair, free and open Wales – a Liberal Wales – where everyone has the opportunity to succeed in life, regardless of upbringing.
2. That a sixth giant evil of loneliness must be added to the five evils identified by Beveridge.
3. That the role of government is to create the conditions in which people can thrive, providing individuals and communities with the tools to shape their own destiny.
4. In a socially liberal Wales which empowers, safeguards, and creates opportunity for all.
5. In a green economy which creates new opportunities and protects the environment for future generations.
6. That Wales needs a 21st Century social contract that meets the challenges of today and tomorrow, just as Beveridge offered in 1942.
7. In the importance of ensuring Wales seizes the economic and other opportunities available to it in the modern world to achieve its potential as a nation.
8. That our devolution settlement does not equip Wales with powers to fully address social and economic inequality.
9. That Brexit is antithetical to the open, tolerant and prosperous Wales we believe in and that the people should have the final say on Brexit, including the option to choose an exit from Brexit.
10. In an improved devolution settlement that reduces the powers reserved to Westminster and also in devolving powers within Wales to the lowest practicable level.

Conference welcomes:

1. The values and vision outlined in the Welsh Liberal Democrats' Policy Paper 'Fair, Free and Liberal Wales - Wales in 2050'.
2. The creation of a Welsh Liberal Democrat cross-society consultation on 'Fair, Free and Liberal Wales – Wales in 2050' in preparation for the 2021 Assembly Elections.